

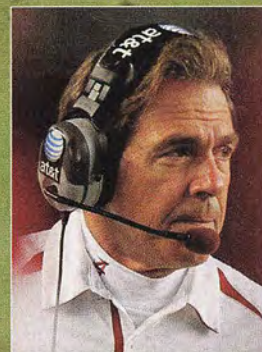
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

DEAR FELLOW CRIMSON TIDE FAN,

Many years ago, Alabama football began the practice of bringing back members of former teams for reunions. This year the Crimson Tide 1961 national championship team was honored in a pre-season weekend. That was Coach Paul Bryant's first – of six – national championship team.

Also honored with a reception this year was the 1971 team. I have a fondness for all Alabama teams in all sports, for the players and coaches. But I'll admit I have particularly good feelings about the 1971 Crimson Tide football team. I had gone to work at Alabama in 1970 and it wasn't a good season. But in 1971, Coach Bryant was re-born. Or at least he orchestrated a re-birth of Bama football.

He told his staff in August – August, mind you, just a few weeks before Alabama had to go to the Los Angeles Coliseum and face the mighty Southern Cal Trojans – that he was changing the offense. Alabama was going to "sink or swim" with the wishbone. It turned out to be quite a swim.

That team set the stage for the final half of the magnificent Bryant dynasty. Mal Moore, who is now the Crimson Tide athletics director, took over as quarterbacks coach. Terry Davis was almost unknown, but became a master of the complicated offense. There were great offensive linemen, led by John Hannah, and an outstanding wide receiver in David Bailey. The defense had men like Robin Parkhouse, and a gritty 180-pound nose tackle in Terry Rowell. It had the first African-Americans who would play varsity football for Alabama, junior defensive end John Mitchell and sophomore end (to be converted to halfback) Wilbur Jackson.

And the Crimson Tide had Johnny Musso, one of the finest players and greatest leaders ever at Alabama.

It had great coaches – Sam Bailey, Ken Donahue, Jimmy Sharpe, Richard Williamson, Dude Hennessey, John David Crow, Bill Oliver, Jack Rutledge, Clem Gyska, Pat Dye.

When we were doing a book on the greatest plays in Alabama football history, "Game Changers," we made the basic wishbone play -- and the first use of it against Southern Cal – one of those plays, the first one in the book in fact.

Alabama used the wishbone to upset the number one ranked Trojans, 17-10, and start Bama on the road to an 11-0 regular season. That included the final game against an undefeated Auburn team with Pat Sullivan, the Heisman Trophy winner, at quarterback. Bama trounced the Tigers, 31-7.

Prior to 1971, there had been talk of Bryant hanging it up. Bama had been 6-5 in 1969 and 6-5-1 in 1970. He had flirted with an offer to coach and be part owner of the Miami Dolphins. But he stayed. A few years later, I asked him what he'd like to be remembered for. He said, "Rebuilding Alabama. Again." Bryant, of course, had rebuilt the Tide when he returned in 1958.

After switching to the wishbone, his Alabama record over the next 12 years was 124-19-1 and included nine Southeastern Conference championships and three national championships.

In discussing this chapter for the book, Musso said, "I think the wishbone energized Coach Bryant. I think the two previous seasons took a lot out of him. But he said, 'Enough is enough.' He got energized—got a new focus—and quickly turned the program around."

If for no other reason, that made the 1971 team – 40 years ago – one of the greatest in storied Alabama football history, and one of my favorites.

Sincerely,
Kirk McNair

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'BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

OCTOBER 2011 • ISSUE TWO

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Quarterbacks Phillip Sims and
A.J. McCarron like the idea of
a script to start the game

By The Script

How the Crimson Tide offense gets started

FOOTBALL BY KIRK MCNAIR

If you could write a script for Alabama football offensive success, one thing you might do is, well, write a script.

Alabama is not alone in using a script. In fact, almost all college and pro football teams use the technique of planning a number of plays with which they will start the game.

There are no guarantees that the script will produce a touchdown, but that doesn't mean that the script does not produce results.

Last year Alabama had games where the script resulted in an impressive score. Against Auburn, for instance, Alabama followed the opening kickoff return with a seven-play, 71-yard drive that culminated with Mark Ingram rushing up the middle for a 15-yard touchdown run. Against Michigan State in the Capital One Bowl, Bama started the game with a 13-play, 79-yard drive with Ingram scoring from a yard out and went on to a 49-7 win.

On the other hand, Alabama opened against Penn State with far less success. For one thing, the Tide had to start the first series of the game from its nine-yard line because of a penalty on the kickoff. The bottom line was that Bama ran five plays and gained 19 yards and had to punt from the Alabama 28. Look a little deeper, though, and Bama had three rushes for 19 yards from Trent Richardson. The script showed Alabama coaches that Richardson could run against the Nittany Lions. He finished with 22 carries for 144 yards and Alabama won by 24-3 in a game that was not as close as the final margin would suggest.

Obviously, a team would always like to finish the opening possession (and every other possession) with a touchdown. One actual goal of the offense is to finish every possession with a kick – hopefully an extra point kick, but if not that then a kick at a field goal, and if not that a punt, meaning there has not been a turnover.

But the script does more than move the football.

For one thing, having a script means that plays can be run with confidence and can be run more quickly, increasing the pace of play.

Another benefit is that the offense can see how the defense reacts to certain formations and/or motion. That can pay dividends throughout the game.

Alabama Coach Nick Saban said, "Bill Walsh started this years ago. He'd script the first 12 or 20 plays or whatever. He'd look at all the situations from the self-scouting that reveals tendencies – and we all have them."

Walsh is best known as the head coach who took the San Francisco 49ers from obscurity to greatness, but before that he had been an innovative offensive coordinator. And after his pro career, he became head coach at Stanford, where his innovation of the offensive script was revealed in the early 1990s.

Saban noted that Alabama sometimes uses the script period at the first of a game to show the opponent a familiar Crimson Tide formation, and then run a play that it has not run from that set. Or Bama may run a play that is



Jim McElwain sees several advantages to having a script

University of Alabama

part of the offensive repertoire from an unusual formation for that play.

It probably wasn't a surprise that Alabama opened the Penn State game with a run by Richardson, nor was it out of character to have Greg McElroy throwing a pass on first down to Julio Jones, as he did against Auburn. But in the Capital One Bowl, the first play was a McElroy pass to H-back Preston Dial for a 13-yard gain. And the second play was a six-yard run by wide receiver Darius Hanks. Those probably caught the Spartans off guard.

To great extent, the use of the script is to gather information. Walsh, who had been a college boxer as well as football player at San Jose State, explained that a scripted play was like a boxer throwing a jab at his opponent. He would see how the opponent reacted. And when he threw the next jab, he might be able to follow it with a successful left hook.

Sometimes the success of a scripted play is secondary, even irrelevant, if it provides key information about how the defense will react.

Alabama Offensive Coordinator Jim McElwain said, "I think that everybody has it a little bit different, but one of the things is trying to find out in that first script what some of their ideas are to handle some motion shifts and what their ideas are to handle some formations. How were they going to provide extra coverage on Julio (Jones)?"

"So we try to put those things in more to find out what their

An advertisement for Dri-Fit Elephant Polo shirts and State Traditions Caps. The top section shows three polo shirts (black, white, and black) with an elephant logo. Below them is a white visor. The text "Dri-Fit Elephant Polo" is prominently displayed, along with the price "69.50" and "available in White, Crimson, or Black." Below this, there is a small logo for "the Locker Room" and the text "Visit our new website locker-room.biz". The bottom section shows two baseball caps, one red and one olive green, with the text "State Traditions Cap" and the price "25.00". The background is a solid red color. At the bottom, there is a red and white checkered border.

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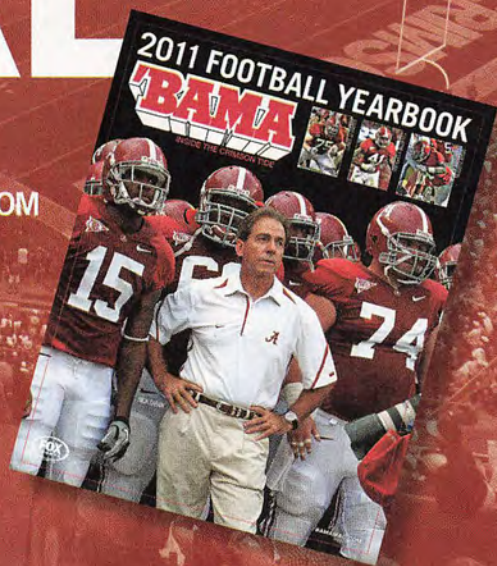
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thoughts are going to be for the week."

The script is not etched in stone. It is subject to down and distance situations. If a long gain on a kick return or an early play puts the team in the Red Zone, the play-calling becomes normal. When the offense has a third-and-short, the team will go off-script.

"But what you like to do," McElwain said, "is try to get back on script as quickly as possible."

McElwain pointed to another advantage of the script.

"It allows your players to play fast," he said. "They know what's coming. They practice those things and it really allows them to play fast in the first part of the game, which is important in getting off to a good start."

Saban took that a step further.

"A few years ago it seemed to me we were coming out with less intensity in the second half," Saban said. "I suggested we script to start the second half like we did the first half, and that seemed to get us going."

Walsh was convinced that his players played with more confidence using the scripted plays because they had been rehearsed so much. He also thought that resulted in fewer penalties for his offense and added an element of confusion for the defense that made the opponent more prone to committing penalties.

Alabama Athletics Director Mal Moore said that Alabama first used a script in the early years of the wishbone in the 1970s. "We didn't use it every game," he said. "But in certain games we would script the first 10 plays or so, maybe using it for the first two or three series. We wouldn't use the script on every play, mostly first downs."

"Coach Bryant had a little scheme where he wanted to see how [the opposing defense] would adjust to formations. And after we saw that, we would reduce our offense down to what we thought would work best against them."

What many Alabama followers believe to have been a script to start the 1973 game against Tennessee at Legion Field in Birmingham was not a script. "That was just a call," Moore said. It was one of the most famous calls in Alabama history.

Bama's first play was an 80-yard touchdown pass from Gary Rutledge to a wide open Wayne Wheeler.

"We started working on it on Wednesday," Moore said. "None of the elements of the play had ever resulted in a deep pass. We had both halfbacks blocking and faked to the fullback. We sold run, their safety came running up, and Wayne Wheeler just had to beat the cornerback."

This year Alabama will have a new quarterback replacing the graduated Greg McElroy. Both A.J. McCarron, a third year sophomore who had some experience, but no starting experience before 2011; and Phillip Sims, a second year freshman who had no college game experience prior to this season, see the script as an advantage.

McCarron said, "I think it's really good. You know what you are going to go to and what you are going to do in certain situations. I don't see anything negative about it. In your scripted plays you have answers to everything they are going to bring and you know what they are going to play in the first few minutes of the game. I like it."

Sims said, "It helps to know that we have plays planned, particularly if you are a first year quarterback. Last year as I was redshirted I got to learn the process of how we script plays. It lets you know what to expect from the defense. And it gets you into a groove knowing what you are going to run when you go into the game. You can start to picture what looks you'll see on defense, and that makes it easier on those first few plays – particularly since your heart is going to really be pumping. The quarterback knows when he sees certain keys what he needs to do."

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

BY KIRK MCNAIR

Tide's
3-4
defense
is really
multiple

We are creatures of habit. Information providers through the food chain—those who disseminate to the media and the journalists who report to the public—have grown accustomed to cubby-hole the offensive system and defensive system of a football team. In truth, unless a team is running the wishbone offense or exclusively is in the spread formation, it is probably too multiple to classify. And while a team may have a base defensive alignment, because the defense has to respond to the opposing offense, not many successful defensive teams would be anything but multiple.

But old habits die hard. Alabama is listed by most as a pro-set offense and a 3-4 defense. On offense, Alabama operates from spread (shotgun) formation; with the quarterback under center; from wildcat with a tailback taking the direct snap; and pistol, a running back directly behind a quarterback in spread formation. Bama may have one, two, three, or four wide receivers. The Crimson Tide can be in a one-back or two-back set. From the standpoint that pro teams do all of that, yes, Alabama is in a pro-set offense.

Alabama also lines up in a 3-4 defense. But it plays from that alignment perhaps 20 per cent of the time. As Crimson Tide Defensive Coordinator Kirby Smart said, "I think if you are just one thing, in anything you do, it's just like war. You sit in the same place long enough; they're going to get you. If they know where you are going

to be and you're predictable, they're going to get you. That's one thing that I will say. We are unpredictable, and we are hard to figure out for an offense."

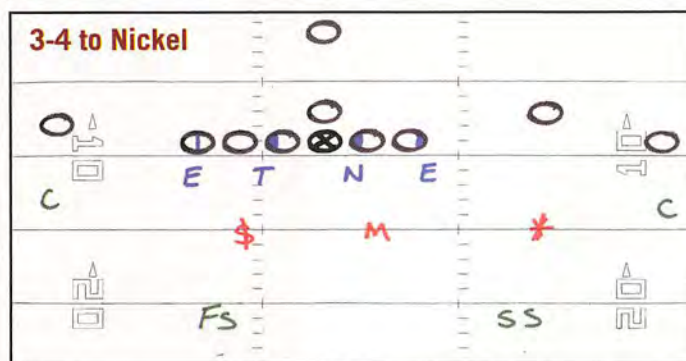
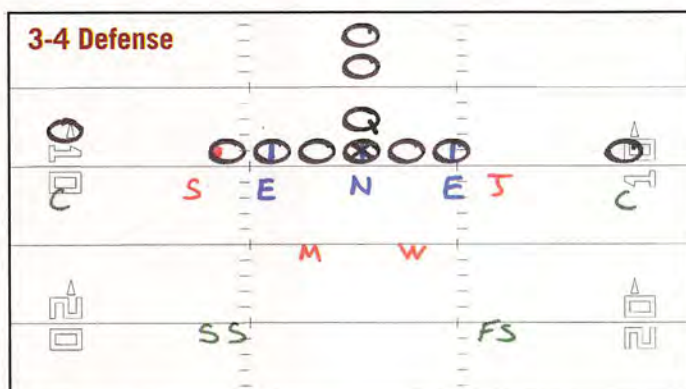
Seven SEC teams list their BASIC offense as multiple, which says nothing. (What is the alternate offense?) One, Mississippi State, says its basic offense is Multiple Spread. Four teams (including Alabama) list the basic offense as Pro Set.

On defense, six conference teams say the basic defensive set is 4-3. One, Auburn, says its basic defense is 4-3 multiple. (What is that? It would seem it is either 4-3 or something else.) South Carolina has a slight wrinkle on the 4-3, a 4-2-5. How about Kentucky: it says the basic defense of the Wildcats is "4-3, 3-4." Florida bails out with a "multiple," although the Gators under new Coach Will Muschamp are thought to be in the 3-4 camp.

Alabama and Georgia as the basic defense list the 3-4 — three down linemen and four linebackers --.

Anyone who has watched Alabama football under Coach Nick Saban knows there is no basic Crimson Tide defense, and he confirmed that.

Saban said, "It's probably a little bit overstated because we actually played a 3-4 last year about 20 per cent of the time. That's dictated and determined by the offense that we play (against). Because when we play nickel and dime, we're playing more 40-type



Dont'a Hightower
called on for tackles



defense. I know Will (Muschamp) will be the same way; most of the people in the league are the same way, because you're going to get in the best pass-rush front you can have."

Saban went into more detail on his choice to use the 3-4.

Among other things, it gave him an opportunity to speak to prospects.

"I think we sort of go in cycles defensively," he said. "I think half or more than half the teams in the NFL now are running a 3-4 defense. I think that there was a time where most people were playing four down guys and three linebackers. But I think that's kind of cycled back to the 3-4."

Almost all players recruited by Alabama would like to play in the NFL, and no one gets those players better prepared for "the league" than Bama, Saban is telling those prospects. He's being honest. That has been proved in recent NFL drafts.

Saban also explained that a team can't just become a 3-4 team by taking out a defensive lineman and adding a linebacker.

"I think philosophically you have to be able to manage circumstances and understand what you're getting into because you need bigger guys to play nose and defensive end," the Tide coach said. "So you have to have outside backer types who can pass-rush when you get into all the spread stuff and nickel stuff that you have to play."

"I think the greatest advantage philosophically of playing a 3-4 is it gives you the best opportunity to play a seven-man front and play split-safety coverages rather than having to be in an eight-man front to stop the run. You have to have the right kind of players to do it. But philosophically I think that's why you see more and more of that defense. "[From a technical standpoint, that's the reason we like it."

But, remember, Alabama was in a 3-4 only about 20 per cent of the time last year. More often than not, Alabama would drop a player (frequently the strongside linebacker) from the 3-4 and bring in a nickel back. Sometimes the jack linebacker (Courtney Upshaw, usually) would move to end, or even tackle, for a four-man front look.

The strongside and jack linebackers are the outside linebackers in Bama's 3-4 scheme.

"And because you have both linebackers at the end of the line, your adjustments to formations are a little easier," Saban said. "And the trend on offense now is to have a tremendous number of multiples in personnel groups and formations, so (defensive) adjustments are a little easier (from the 3-4)."

Want a little proof?

Alabama has been the SEC scoring defense leader the past two years and the total defense leader in the league the past three seasons.

Asked about pass rushing, Saban was able to get in another plug to prospects.

"I think that we have a little different type team this year defensively," he said. "I think in the last few years we have had, always had, dominant down guys that had pass-rush ability, Marcell Dareus being the most recent; several other guys in the past that are

playing in the NFL now, as well.

"I'm not sure we have those kind of dominating down guys right now. We're trying to develop some of those guys as younger players."

"We have more linebacker types who are pass-rushers. I

think this is one of the key ingredients of playing the 3-4, is your linebacker guys are going to have to be your pass-rushers because the down guys are going to be bigger and not as effective rushers. So that's where a lot of our pass-rush is going to come from."

"Courtney Upshaw is actually an outside linebacker who plays a lot of defensive end and nickel. Dont'a Hightower does that, Alex Watkins did it some last year towards the end of the year, added some pass-rush for us."

"So we need to develop. One of the challenges on defense is to develop rushers who can push the pocket to go with the edge rushers we have, which are really linebacker types."

Kirby Smart said the 3-4 provides an element of surprise because it can quickly morph into another look.

"We like going from 3-4 to 4-3 to other defenses to confuse people," Bama's defensive coordinator said. "That's why we get some of the turnovers that we get and interceptions that we get. They (opposing offenses) are not real sure, and when they're sure of things, they can plan on them and attack you in certain areas. We like to be multiple and be sure of those things."

A key to the 3-4 is the nose tackle. Alabama has had very good ones lately, the unique Terrence Cody for a couple of years and now All-America candidate Josh Chapman, who is one of the strongest players in college football.

"It's a defense a lot of people might not like to play, but being a nose tackle I like it," Chapman said. "My job is to keep the linemen off a linebacker like Dont'a. He's a great player and he can stop the run. My job is to keep the offensive linemen off him. If I'm doing my job, he's making tackles, and we're ALL having fun."

That linebacker, Dont'a Hightower, said, "A lot of teams don't run the 3-4 because they don't have the personnel. To run the 3-4 you have to have a great nose, and we do in Josh Chapman. He's done a great job since he's been here. Without a guy like that, you can't run a 3-4, and it's hard to find one like Josh. The nose guard has to demand a double-team each play. If the other team is able to block the nose one-on-one, the 3-4 isn't going to work. But Josh does a good job of holding up two, and even three, men every play. That leaves a lot of holes for me and Nico (Johnson) and C.J. Mosley and Chris Jordan to run through."

"The 3-4 - three down linemen and four linebackers standing up - the other team can't know which, if any, linebacker might be blitzing. So the 3-4 has a disguise element that affects the play of the offensive line."

As Saban said, defensive schemes go in cycles. Look for the Alabama staff usually to be out front with personnel and plans to be successful.



Courtney Upshaw is a force in Alabama's defense

Shawn McMiller

NEUTRAL LOOKS GREEN

FOOTBALL BY 'BAMA STAFF

When the subject of future football schedules comes up, there is usually a question along the lines of playing a home-and-home series with a team like Notre Dame. There's are reasons those games are going to become fewer and fewer for Alabama. In a summer meeting to an alumni group, Alabama Athletics Director Mal Moore gave an illustration of what to look for in the future.

"We played Penn State in Tuscaloosa last year and we gave them \$200,000 when they came here," Moore said. "This year we will go to them and they will give us \$200,000. If we had just played Penn State say in New York City or in Atlanta at the Georgia Dome, we would have both made \$3.5 million. We would have got 40,000 tickets and they would have got 40,000. We go to Happy Valley and play Penn State this year, we get 5,000 tickets. So we are better off doing games like we did with Florida State in Jacksonville a few years ago."

Moore said even though Bama lost that game in the Gator Bowl, everything was great.

"We played where the Jaguars play, where Florida and Georgia play every year, where the Super Bowl was played two years before we played Florida State," Moore said. "But when Alabama played in Jacksonville, it was the largest crowd in the history of the stadium. So it is like playing a home game. We will play at home to start the season this year, but next year we will play Michigan at the Dallas Cowboys Stadium in Dallas. That is the only time we will play them. We will divide the tickets with about 45,000 each and we will both make \$4 million each."

Moore said games in the future would be scheduled like that.

"We have scheduled a game with Michigan State like that," Moore said. "That was before we played them in the bowl game. Now they might want to rethink that."

Alabama is also scheduled to open the 2013 season against Virginia Tech in Atlanta.

TRANSFERS APLENTY

It has been a year of players transferring from the Crimson Tide football program. At least three of them were given a boost out the door, it seems. Alabama Coach Nick Saban announced in the summer that one, safety Robby Green, would not return to the team. At the same time the coach announced that defensive lineman Darrington Sentimore and wide receiver Keiwone Malone were suspended indefinitely.

Those three all elected to transfer. Green went to California University of Pennsylvania and Malone to the University of Memphis in his hometown.

Sentimore was one of three Alabama players who transferred to junior colleges, and Sentimore reportedly hopes to return to Alabama for the 2012 season.

Others who have left Alabama since the end of last season include defensive back B.J. Scott to South Alabama, running back Demetrius Goode to North Alabama, running back Corey Grant to Auburn, defensive end Brandon Moore to East Mississippi Community College, and linebacker Petey Smith to Holmes Community College in Mississippi.

DARIUS HANKS

Wide receiver Darius Hanks had to sit out the first two games of 2011, a trade off for him receiving a redshirt season in 2007 even though he played a handful of downs in one game.

VERSATILE

Senior wide receiver Marquis Maze and junior running back Trent Richardson were two of 50 student-athletes named to the Paul Hornung watch list Monday morning. The award, which is presented by Texas Roadhouse, is entering its second season and is given to the most versatile player in college football by the Louisville Sports Commission. Stanford's Owen Marecic, who played at fullback and linebacker for the Cardinal, won the inaugural award in 2010.

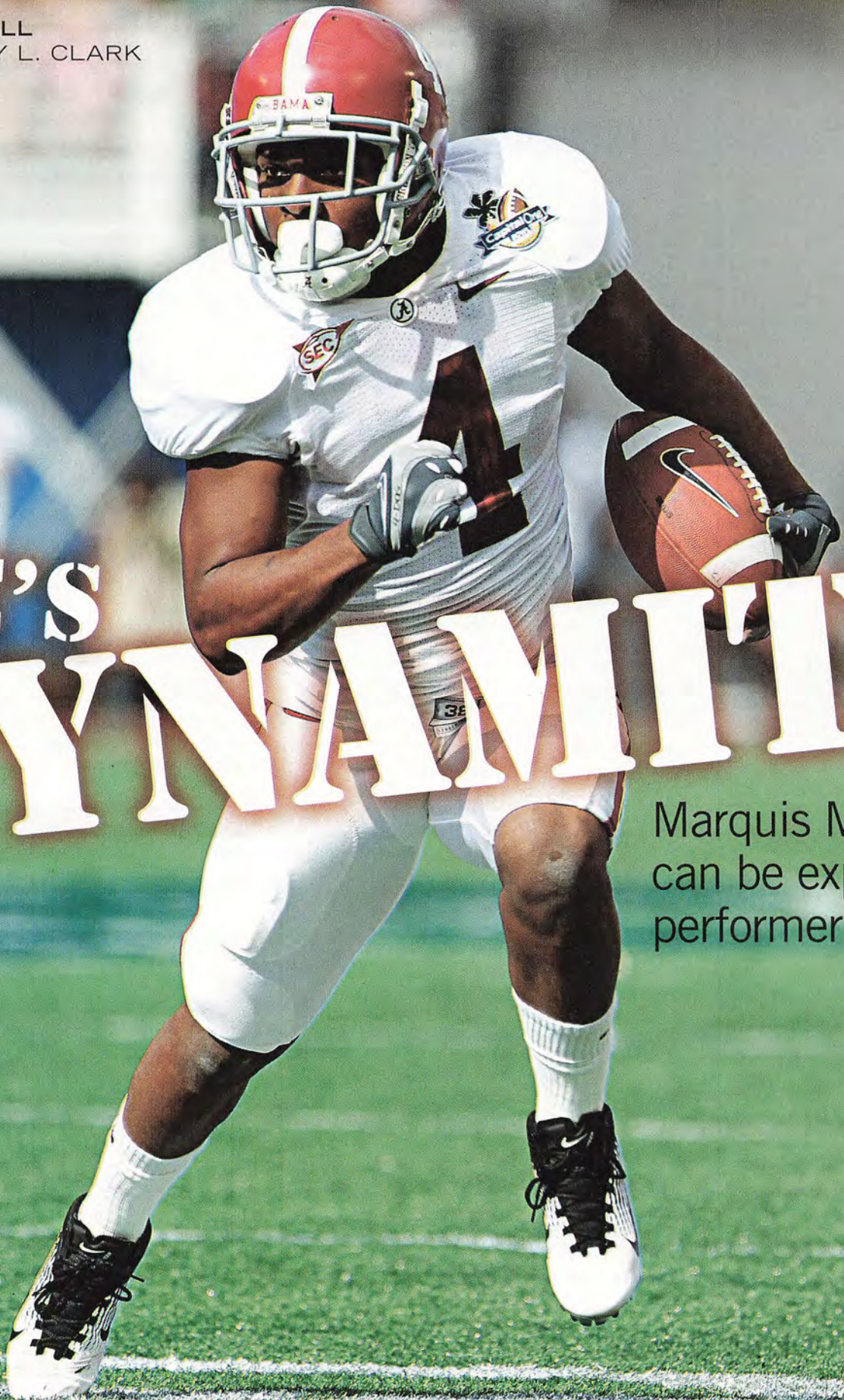
2011 ALABAMA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	SERIES RECORD*	LAST GAME*
September 3	Kent State	Tuscaloosa	First Meeting	N/A
September 10	Penn State	University Park, Penn.	9-5-0	2010 UA 24, PSU 3
September 17	North Texas	Tuscaloosa	3-0-0	2009 UA 53, NT 7
September 24	Arkansas	Tuscaloosa	14-7-0	2010 UA 24, Ark 20
October 1	Florida	Gainesville	23-14-0	2010 UA 31, UF 6
October 8	Vanderbilt	Tuscaloosa	58-19-4	2007 UA 24, VU 10
October 15	Ole Miss	Oxford	47-9-2	2010 UA 23, UM 10
October 22	Tennessee	Tuscaloosa	48-38-7	2010 UA 41, UT 10
October 29	Open			
November 5	LSU	Tuscaloosa	45-24-5	2010 LSU 24, UA 21
November 12	Mississippi State	Starkville	75-17-3	2010 UA 30, MSU 10
November 19	Georgia Southern	Tuscaloosa	First Meeting	N/A
November 26	Auburn	Auburn	40-34-1	2010 AU 28, UA 27
December 3	SEC Championship Game	Atlanta	3 wins, 4 losses	2009 UA 32, Florida 13
January 9, 2012	BCS Championship	New Orleans	1 win, 0 loss	2009 UA 37, Texas 21

FOOTBALL
BY CARY L. CLARK

HE'S DYNAMITE

Marquis Maze
can be explosive
performer



There's a sports adage that says, "Dynamite comes in small packages."

Alabama senior wide receiver Marquis Maze, very generously listed at 5-feet-10, 180 pounds, has what the Alabama offense is looking for: the capability to provide explosive plays.

Maze is known throughout the SEC and the NCAA as one of the college game's fastest players, and a player who can score from any point on the football field, be it by catching a pass, running a reverse, or returning a kick.

"Marquis can fly," said junior safety Robert Lester, one person charged with covering Maze on a daily basis at practice. "Marquis is fast. Real fast. He's a real competitive guy."

"My scouting report on him is, 'You better give some cushion. He'll blow by you.'"

Alabama Coach Nick Saban has appreciation for Maze's skills. "Marquis contributed to our team in a lot of different ways last year, and I think the style of player that he is, hopefully we can continue to get that kind of production and performance from him," said Saban. "Last year was the first time ever he returned punts for us, and he did a good job. He certainly can improve on that. He was a screen and catch it and run with it guy for us who made a lot of plays. We would like to continue to create some more ways that we can get him the ball, whether it's on speed sweeps, so that he can use his running ability as an asset to make explosive plays on our offense. We're going to continue to try to build on his role in our offense. His role expanded a year ago, and we'll continue to try to build that in terms of utilizing his strengths and running abilities."

Four years ago, just after Saban took the Alabama job, the Crimson Tide began to look for speed. The previous staff of Mike Shula had not spent much time -- if any -- recruiting the Tarrant speedster, but once the Saban staff began to show interest, and offered, that sealed the deal.

"Coach (Nick) Saban is the reason I came to Alabama," Maze said. "It's what he stands for, as a coach and as a man. He knows what it takes to get to the next level (the NFL). I knew what he would bring to the (Alabama) team."

Maze was a "jack-of-all trades, master of all" type player at Tarrant. He played quarterback, running back, receiver, defensive back, returned kicks and punts, and anything else needed. Maze had nearly 3,000 all-purpose yards his junior and senior seasons. Scout.com rated him a three-star receiver. He had 26 tackles and picked off six passes on defense. Maze missed six games due to an injury his senior year, but was able to return to football and then resume his spot at guard on the Tarrant basketball team. He still enjoys competitive pick-up basketball games with friends and teammates.

When Maze arrived at Alabama in 2007, it seemed no coincidence he got uniform number 4, a digit worn previously by fan favorite Tyrone Prothro. The two are similar players. Like Prothro had been at Cleburne County High, Maze was and still is a legend at Tarrant. Maze considered it an honor when a young fan mistook him



for Prothro at Maze's first Fan Day back in 2007, a year he redshirted.

In last year's Florida game, Maze got a chance to show his versatility when he took a direct snap, faked a run, and fired a 19-yard touchdown pass to tight end Michael Williams.

When reporters asked Maze how he liked playing wildcat, he jokingly corrected them.

"When I'm in there, we call it the 'bobcat,'" he said, "because a bobcat is quicker than a wildcat."

Maze didn't get a whole lot of balls thrown his way during his redshirt freshman season, but everyone who saw the 2008 Iron Bowl remembers the late, 34-yard touchdown catch from fellow backup Greg McElroy to cap the 36-0 beating of Auburn, the Tide's first win over its in-state foe at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

It's not like Maze hasn't been productive the past three years. His career numbers read 80 catches for 1,217 yards (15.2 average) and seven touchdowns. He has nine kickoff returns for 208 yards (23.1 average) and 23 punt returns for 275 yards, a 12-yard average. He's run the ball for 26 yards on eight totes. All totaled, that's 1,726 yards,

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Marquis Maze could be
Bama's deep threat



Stuart McNair

“SPEED AND EXCITEMENT: TWO WORDS THAT DEFINITELY DESCRIBE MARQUIS MAZE,” SAID SIMS. “HE’S ONE OF THE MOST EXPLOSIVE RECEIVERS I’VE PLAYED WITH. HE’S VERY FAST, AND PEOPLE UNDERESTIMATE HIM BECAUSE OF HIS SIZE. THAT’S A MAJOR MISTAKE.

only 34 yards shy of a mile. That’s a lot of grass on the football field.

During the five years they’ve spent together in Tuscaloosa, Maze has developed quite a bond with fellow senior receiver Darius Hanks. Maze has become an encourager for his friend, who has to sit out the team’s first two games this fall as a result of playing one game in 2007 and not being granted a medical red shirt.

“I tell Darius just to be ready,” Maze said. “He knows what he has to do. ‘I know it hurts him a lot to miss those two games.’”

Hanks is as big a Maze fan as one can be without being a member of the family.

“We’re like brothers,” Hanks said. “We fight. We argue, but at the same time, we love each other on and off the field, like a brother does. We’ve been together for five years. We know what each other is going to do out on the field. When I’m doing something, he knows it and the same thing for me with him.

“He’s fast-twitch guy. He’s explosive, and he can make a big play at any time. I see him being back there on punts. I feel like last year, he had some pretty explosive punt returns, and this year he’ll be

even better. I feel like he’ll have a role on kickoff returns, too.”

Junior corner Dre Kirkpatrick enjoys his practice battles with Maze, and offers this scouting report to those planning to cover Maze man-to-man: “Quick. Fast. Electric. Somebody better have some help.”

Senior H-back/tight end Brad Smelley was a quarterback in high school at Tuscaloosa’s American Christian Academy before becoming a receiver at The Capstone. He’s been with Maze four years.

“Marquis is a legitimate threat for the deep ball,” said Smelley. “He’s got probably more speed than anybody on the field at any time. He gets out of the breaks (on pass routes) really quick. He’ll come down and knock your head off with a block on running plays. He’s a small guy, but he’s a physical guy. He’s as physical as any receiver I’ve ever seen.”

Fellow fifth-year man and receiver Brandon Gibson says Maze’s personality is a plus in the locker room. “Marquis is a funny guy. I love him to death,” said Gibson. “He keeps us going every day. I like his attitude. He’s a great player. He’s a great leader, and he’s going to make a lot of great plays for us this year. He’s a little guy.

He'll probably get mad at me for saying that. He comes after people blocking. He's a bruiser. If you can remember the (2010) Mississippi State game (when Maze has 166 total yards between receiving, kick and punt returns), he kind of shocked a lot of people with the play-making ability that he has, and we're looking forward to him having a great season for us.

"Me and (Darius) Hanks, we kind of look up to him, as a fellow senior with a lot of experience. Between us three seniors, it should be good for us this year, and hopefully, we'll make a lot of big plays."

Hanks, the third fifth-year wide receiver in Alabama's arsenal, said, "I feel like Marquis has progressed every year we've been out on the field. I feel like he's a leader in his own way. Marquis is a very talented receiver, and he's a very fast guy, so I feel like you're going to have to get one of the best DBs out there to cover the guy."

Redshirt freshman quarterback Phillip Sims is glad Maze is on his team, if only for one year.

"Speed and excitement: two words that definitely describe Marquis Maze," said Sims. "He's one of the most explosive receivers I've played with. He's very fast, and people underestimate him because of his size. That's a major mistake."

"He's powerful. He's strong. He's a good blocker, but we expect all our receivers to do that. We get you the ball, but when we have a running back or tight end in the open field, we expect you to do that, and Maze does. He will be physical if he needs to, but his speed is what everybody should be concerned about, because he has the ability to take it to take the top off any defense."

The other man competing for the starting job behind center agrees.

"Maze is going to bring a lot to the table," said sophomore quarterback A.J. McCarron. "You can use Maze out of anything. Maze can come back to the backfield, he can play wideout. He's in that number one role. But we've got a bunch of playmakers out there. We can give the ball to anybody. But Maze is definitely a special guy. He's going to do a lot of things for us."

Two years ago, when Javier Arenas was setting punt return records as an Alabama senior, Maze told reporters he'd be ready to step in on punts and kickoffs when Arenas went to the pros. That happened some last year, as Maze had 189 yards on eight kickoff returns (23.6 average) and brought back 21 punts for 267 yards, a respectable 12.7 average. This year, he looks to be the primary punt returner, and a reasonable bet to be on the two-deep on kickoffs.

Maze said, "Javy (Arenas) showed me a lot. He's the best Last year, I shared time (with Julio Jones) on punts, and made several plays. I feel like I did pretty good, but this year I'll do a lot more."

Regardless of whether Sims or McCarron is in at quarterback, Maze feels this could be a good year for the Tide offense.

"I feel like we'll have an explosive offense," he said. "I like both the quarterbacks. I feel comfortable with both of them in the game. There's really not much difference. Both of them have strong arms and are accurate."

Maze's role on offense this season could change with the absence of three-year starter Julio Jones, now of the Atlanta Falcons.

"The wide receiver spot, we did lose a guy by the name of Julio (Jones) that was a pretty decent player," said Bama Offensive Coordinator Jim McElwain during his annual pre-season chat with sports reporters. "I don't think that you ever really replace a guy like Julio Jones for all the things that he can do, however what you need to do is by committee and make sure that the guys step up and fill the void that needs to be there. We do have some experience in (Marquis) Maze and (Darius) Hanks. I think DeAndrew White has had a really good spring and done some good things this fall already and had a great summer."

"I don't think it'll change that much," Maze said of his role on offense. "Being a senior, I know I need to be a leader. I know I need to make more plays, and be there for my team. People act like I just run 'go' (deep) routes. That's not true. I go over the middle all the time. Against most zone coverages, we face double-teams. Look at the film. I take a lot of middle routes."

"I just need to continue to do what I've been doing: Playing hard every game for 60 minutes. We've got plenty of guys capable of making plays, like (Darius) Hanks, Brandon Gibson and (redshirt freshman) DeAndrew White. DeAndrew is fast. He's a good young receiver. (Sophomore) Kenny Bell has a lot of speed. (Sophomore) Kevin Norwood, (true freshmen) Marvin Shinn, and Danny Woodson all made some plays during the summer pass skeleton drills."

Smelley agrees, with a caveat. "He's had an extensive role since he's been starting here," Smelley said. "I do think that role could expand a little bit, as far as Julio being gone, but we've got a plethora of receivers that can get the job done, so I don't think (opponents) are going to be able to double-team Maze or Hanks. They're going to have a lot of opportunities to make plays."

Said Lester, "He's going to continue to work hard, and do what he does."

Added Sims, "I think he'll see more passes his way. He'll be seen more as a go-to receiver. I think that role will be split between him and (Darius) Hanks, but I think Maze has a chance to have a very big season."

That's music to the ears of Saban, McElwain, Sims, McCarron, Hanks, first-year receivers coach Mike Groh and millions of Tide fans.

But 2011 Tide opponents? Not so much. It seems the fuse is lit. It's just a matter of when this small package of dynamite explodes. ■

What It Means To Be Crimson Tide

*Gene Stallings and Alabama's
Greatest Players*

Alabama football means championships and All-America players and, for many, a man in a houndstooth hat. Some 60 Alabama players who performed over a 75-year period tell us "What It Means To Be Crimson Tide."

Former Alabama Coach Gene Stallings and BAMA Editor Kirk McNair selected players who tell the stories of games and practices, coaches and teammates. The story of "What It Means To Be Crimson Tide."

Among those featured are Harry Gilmer, Bart Starr, Lee Roy Jordan, Joe Namath, Ken Stabler, Johnny Musso, John Hannah, Ozzie Newsome, and Jay Barker.

Gene Stallings reveals much of his philosophy and reveals why he did NOT follow Paul Bryant as Alabama head football coach in 1983. Kirk McNair introduces the players.

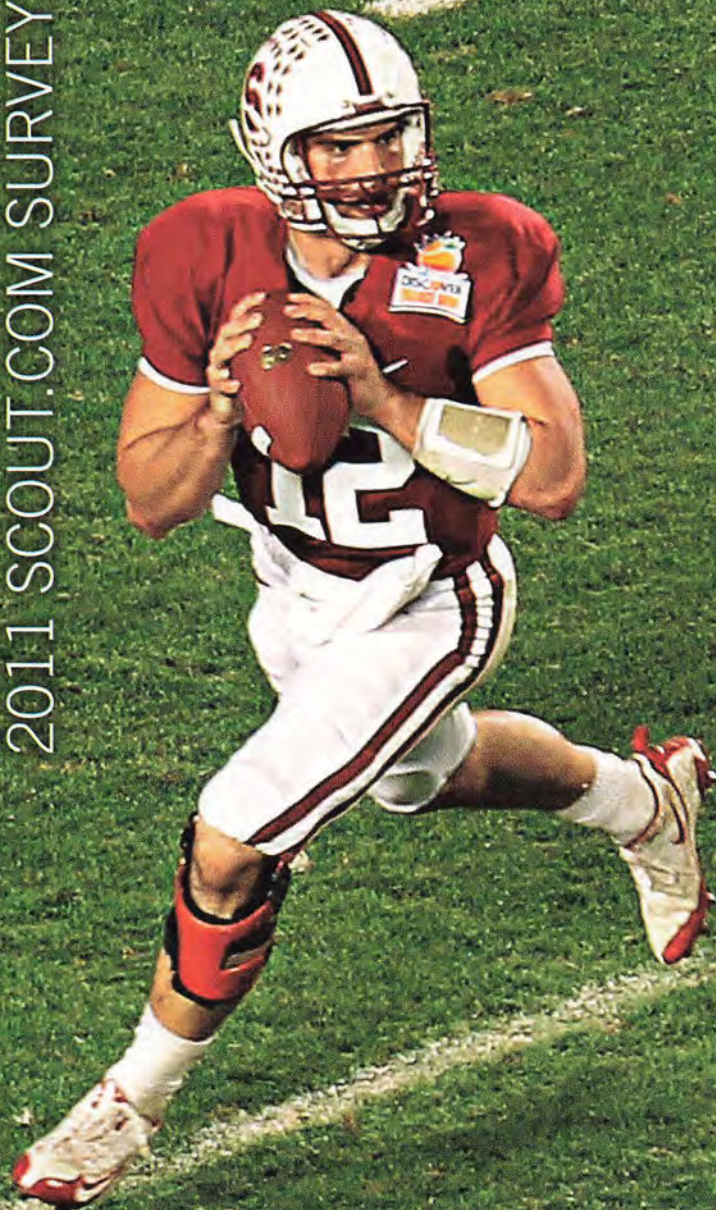
"What It Means To Be Crimson Tide—Gene Stallings and Alabama's Greatest Players" is a hardcover book of over 300 pages in an oversized format with archival photographs throughout. To order (\$27.95 plus tax, shipping and handling) call 1-205-345-5074. You may request a personalized autograph from Kirk McNair.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CRIMSON TIDE



GENE STALLINGS
AND ALABAMA'S GREATEST PLAYERS

KIRK MCNAIR



We asked the Scout.com network of publishers, analysts and recruiting experts some questions about the upcoming football season as well as to comment on some of the issues facing college football.

SURVEY NOTES:

- There were 96 survey participants.
- The number next to the team is the actual number of votes the team, player, coach or response received.
- On questions where not every expert needed to respond the percentage of votes is indicated.
- The top vote getters are listed. In most cases any response that did not receive five or more votes wasn't included.
- Cutoff date for responses was Aug. 16.



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NATIONAL CHAMP

Oklahoma (32)

Alabama (29)

LSU (6)

HEISMAN WINNER

Andrew Luck, QB, Stanford (46)

Trent Richardson, RB, Alabama (10)

Landry Jones, QB, Oklahoma (10)

Kellen Moore, QB, Boise State (8)

LaMichael James, RB, Oregon (7)



PAPER TIGER

(team that fails to live up to 2011 preseason expectations)

Florida State, Oregon (11)

Nebraska (8), Notre Dame (7)

LSU, Oklahoma (6)

Boise State, Stanford (5)



SLEEPER TEAM

(team that will make the biggest jump in the standings—not necessarily a national championship contender)

Michigan (8)

Florida, Mississippi State, Notre Dame, Washington State (5)

BYU, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisville, Miami (4)

Texas A&M, Washington (3)



SLEEPING GIANT

(a program outside the top 10 that has the potential of becoming a perennial top 10 team)

Arkansas, Notre Dame (8)

Clemson, Florida, Miami (6)

Arizona State, Georgia, South Florida,

Texas A&M, Washington (4)



GAME OF THE YEAR (NON-CONFERENCE)

Oklahoma at Florida State (35)

LSU vs. Oregon (33)

Georgia at Boise State (8)



GAME OF THE YEAR (CONFERENCE)

LSU at Alabama (17)

Oregon at Stanford (13)

Alabama at Auburn (12)

Nebraska at Wisconsin (11)

Alabama at Florida, Texas at Oklahoma (8)

Oklahoma at Oklahoma State (7)

Tom Rummel/Getty, Jonathan Feingersh/Getty, Cecil Harris/Getty, Nick Laham/Getty, Rick Orloff/Getty, Chris Graythen/Getty

BEST COACH

Saban-Alabama (46)
 Peterson-Boise State (10)
 Patterson-TCU (9)
 Stoops-Oklahoma (8)
 Paterno-Penn State (7)
 Beamer-Virginia Tech (6)

BEST RECRUITER

Saban-Alabama (36)
 Brown-Texas (18)
 Stoops-Oklahoma (10)
 Hoke-Michigan (7)

BEST CONFERENCE SEC 80 votes

ALSO: (10) Pac 12, (3) Big Ten, (2) Big 12, (1) Big East

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

(Percentage of votes listed instead of actual votes.)

SEC

Alabama 66%
 Louisiana State 20%

PAC-12

Oregon 56%
 Stanford 34%

BIG TEN

Wisconsin 42%
 Nebraska 31%
 Ohio State 13%

BIG XII

Oklahoma 77%
 Texas 13%

BIG EAST

West Virginia 47%
 Pittsburgh 19%
 Louisville, South Florida 10%
 Rutgers 9%

ACC

Florida State 64%
 Virginia Tech 26%

CONFERENCE USA

Houston 36%
 UCF 20%
 SMU 18%
 East Carolina, So. Miss 10%

MID-AMERICAN

Miami (OH) 20%
 Northern Illinois 17%
 Ohio, Toledo 12%
 Temple 9%
 Ball State, C. Michigan 8%

MOUNTAIN WEST

Boise State 71%
 TCU 25%

WAC

Fresno State 34%
 Nevada 32%
 Hawaii 26%

SUN BELT

Troy 32%
 Florida International 20%
 Middle Tennessee 12%
 Arkansas State 11%

BEST NEW HIRE

Which new head coach will have the best long-term success

Muschamp-Florida (25)
Hoke-Michigan (25)
 Golden-Miami (14)



COLLEGE FOOTBALL

2011 SCOUT.COM SURVEY

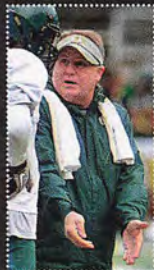


USC SANCTIONS

Just right (50%)

Not nearly enough (35%)

Too harsh (15%)



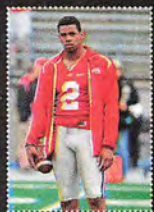
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OREGON IN REGARD TO THE RECRUITING SERVICES SCANDAL?

Minor punishment (66%)

Heavy sanctions (25%)

(bowl ban, loss of scholarships)

Nothing (9%)



SHOULD COLLEGE ATHLETES GET PAID?

No (44%)

Yes - added cost of living (36%)

Yes - football/basketball (16%)

Yes - school's discretion (4%)

Harry How/Getty, Steve Dykes/Getty, David Dermer/Diamond Images/Getty

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Jason Jewell, 24-7Football.com
Jason Jones, HereComeTheDawgs.com
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John Crist, NoleDigest.com
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Josh Harvey, BigRedReport.com
Joey Helmer, SoonersIllustrated.com
John Watson, TheDevilsDen.com
Josh Woodward, InsideTennessee.com
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Travis Erickson, GoldenSports.net
Mike Rubin, TerpSportsReport.com
Whitney Blaine, SuperPrep.com
Spencer Cagle, DeaconSports.com
Wes Michell, GameCockAnthem.com

"Coach Tressel, which direction do you think The Ohio State football program is headed?"

WHO WILL BE THE HEAD COACH OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY IN 2012?

Urban Meyer (35)

Luke Fickell (interim head coach) (22)

Bo Pelini (10)

OHIO STATE SANCTIONS

Not nearly enough (46%)

It's not over yet (35%)

Just right (16%)

Too harsh (3%)



Janie Sabau/Getty

THE NATIONAL CHAMPION SHOULD BE DECIDED BY...

Playoff (8 teams) (27)

Playoff (16 teams) (26)

BCS + 1 (16)

Current BCS (13)

4-Team Playoff (11)

Old Bowl System (1)

March Madness (64 teams) (1)

STADIUM I'VE NEVER BEEN TO BUT WOULD LOVE TO WATCH A GAME AT...

Notre Dame (15)

LSU, Michigan (14)

Penn State (7), Alabama (6)

BEST LOOKING CHEERLEADERS

USC (23)

Arizona State (15), Oregon (11),

Texas (10), UCLA (9)

BEST GAME DAY ATMOSPHERE

(can't be your own school)

Louisiana State (13)

Tennessee (9)

Notre Dame, Penn State (8)

Alabama, Ohio State, Wisconsin (6)

BEST TRADITIONAL RIVALRY

Auburn vs. Alabama (23)

Michigan vs. Ohio State (19)

Texas vs. Oklahoma (14)

Army vs. Navy (12)

BEST UNIFORMS

Penn State (12)

Oregon (11)

Michigan (8)

Florida State (6)

WORST UNIFORMS

Oregon (33)

Penn State (11), Tennessee (5)

IF YOUR SON WAS THE #1 FOOTBALL RECRUIT IN AMERICA, WHERE WOULD YOU WANT HIM TO PLAY?

(Cannot be the school you cover.)

Stanford (22)

Alabama (11), Texas (7)

Florida, Northwestern, UCLA (4)



A look at big men in the state of Alabama

PREP PRO

Radio comic Roy D. Mercer sometimes has a question when making his prank telephone calls: "How big a boy are you?" he asks. Size does matter in football. The best teams have quality big men – offensive and defensive linemen and linebackers.

This month we look at the big men who have been linked with Alabama as the Crimson Tide adds another outstanding class of football recruits. Some prospects have committed, while others intend to hold out perhaps until Signing Day on February 4, 2012.

LINEBACKERS

The in-state linebacker prospects are among the best ever in the state of Alabama. Kwon Alexander and Reggie Ragland are rated by Scout.com as the top outside and middle linebacker prospects in the country.

Kwon Alexander, 6-2, 210, 4.6 (40-yard dash time), Oxford High School, is a five-star outside linebacker by Scout.com and the top-ranked linebacker prospect in the nation. Alexander had a monster junior year with 147 tackles, 17 sacks, six forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries. He also had 147 tackles his sophomore year. Alexander attracted more than 30 scholarship offers, but trimmed his list to six schools--Alabama, Auburn, Florida State, LSU, Miami, and Oregon. He does not plan to announce his decision until National Signing Day in February. Alexander has visited Tuscaloosa several times.

"I have a good relationship with the coaches," Alexander said of Alabama. "They always tell me how much they want me."

Reggie Ragland, 6-4, 245, 4.6, from Bob Jones High School in Madison, is also a five-star and ranked second only to Alexander among linebackers in the nation. Ragland, a middle linebacker, grew up an Alabama fan and made an early decision for the Crimson Tide. Not only is he firm in his commitment, he has been



working hard for Bama in attempting to recruit other top prospects. As a junior, Ragland had 94 tackles and 21 tackles for loss.

"I just knew Alabama was right for me," said Ragland. "I love Alabama's defense. They always play fast. They play together."

Tyler Hayes, 6-3, 220, 4.6, Thomasville, is a four-star outside linebacker. He is sometimes overshadowed by five-stars Alexander and Ragland, but Hayes is also a big-time prospect. He is a three-sport athlete--football, basketball and baseball--but will play football only on the next level. He stars on both sides of the ball and helped Thomasville captured the Class 4A state title in 2010. The Tide commitment had 700 yards rushing and 395 yards receiving. He added two kickoff returns for touchdowns. He also had 96 tackles on defense.

"I really liked Alabama a lot," said Hayes. "They have great coaches, and I really like their academics."

Beniquez Brown, 6-2, 205, 4.6, outside linebacker, Florence, is a four-star prospect. A two-way player, Brown rushed for 1,029 yards and 15 touchdowns as a junior. On defense, he had 134 tackles, five sacks, seven forced fumbles, four fumble

OSPECTS



Tyler Hayes



Beniquez Brown



Javiie Mitchell



Caleb Peterson

recoveries, and two interceptions. He had scholarship offers from nearly every Southeastern Conference team, but has narrowed his choices to Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi State. He has favored Bama, which is recruiting him possibly to play safety.

"I like everything about Alabama," said Brown. "They always want you to be at your best in the classroom. The Alabama name is out there in the business world. Like Coach Saban said, if I don't make it to the league it means something to have a degree from Alabama. I can get a high paying job after I graduate from Alabama."

Javiie Mitchell, 6-1, 200, 4.45, Leeds, has played on the defensive line for the Greenies, but is rated a three-star outside linebacker prospect. Last year he helped Leeds to the 3A state championship. He has great speed and athleticism and could be a safety on the next level. Mitchell has scholarship offers from Alabama, Auburn, Mississippi State (his top three), Southern Miss, Tennessee, and UAB. Mitchell had 99 tackles in 2010, 11.5 sacks, 37 tackles for loss, two forced fumbles, and one fumble recovery.

"Coach (Bobby) Williams tells me I would be a good person to have in their linebacker corps," said Mitchell. "I think

Alabama is a great school. They are strong defensively and offensively. They have good academics."

Cassanova McKinzy, 6-3, 233, 4.6, Birmingham Woodlawn, is a four-star middle linebacker who has committed to Auburn over offers from several top schools, including Alabama.

Other Linebackers to watch: C.J. Perry (Bessemer Academy), Tre Banks (Mobile Williamson), Tyler Stargel (Gulf Shores), Beau Hankins (Birmingham Jackson-Olin), Harding Harper (Montgomery Carver), Colton Shaw (Hokes Bluff), Daniel Bostick (Birmingham John Carroll), and Nathan Carter (Tuscaloosa Central).

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

It's not a deep year in the state of Alabama for offensive linemen. The coaching staff has offered a few players, but might end up signing no in-state offensive lineman in the class of 2012.

Caleb Peterson, 6-5, 295, guard, is a four-star prospect who plays tackle for Auburn High School. He has offers from Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, Duke, Georgia Tech, Louisville,



Kyron Samuels



Darren Lake



Caleb Gullledge



Darius Philon

Mississippi State, Southern Miss, Stanford, and Vanderbilt. He has high interest in Alabama, Auburn, Georgia Tech, and Southern Miss. His brother plays at Southern Miss. Peterson lives in Auburn, but was raised in Georgia. He moved to Auburn when he was a sophomore. He has visited Alabama several times.

"They have awesome fans," Peterson said of Alabama. "It's a great community. That means a lot to me because I want to play where they sell out and for people who love the team. The weight room is awesome. That's important to me. I've been working out everyday since I was 10 getting ready for college football. The weight room is like my second home."

Alphonse Taylor, 6-6, 340, tackle, Mobile Davidson, is a four-star who is the top-rated offensive lineman in the state. He plays on both offense and defense. He picked Florida State over Alabama.

Michael Flint, 6-4, 303, Oxford, is a three-star guard who committed to Auburn in the spring. That commitment fell through and he is now considering Oregon and Tennessee.

Kyron Samuels, 6-1, 282, is a center at Fairhope, and is best known as the nephew of former Crimson Tide star and Outland Trophy winner Chris Samuels. He is a three-star prospect at center. He moved to that position this year because that's where he is expected to play in college. He camped at Alabama, but does not have a Bama offer. His scholarship choices are East Carolina, FIU, Northern Illinois, South Alabama, Southern Miss, Troy, UAB, and Western Kentucky.

"Coach Saban told me there is another guy they really like," said Samuels. "He said he wishes I was a little bit taller. He compares me to William Vlachos. I feel like I have done everything they have asked. I think I have done enough to deserve an offer. It's the place I want to be. Coach Saban's thing is that I have done everything, but I am 6-foot-1 instead of 6-foot-3 or 6-foot-4."

Haston Coates, 6-2, 310, guard, Pleasant Grove, emerged on the recruiting map in the spring after several standout camp performances and is rated as a two-star. Several schools have

expressed interest, including Alabama, Auburn, Florida State, South Alabama, Southern Miss and Tennessee. He attended the Alabama OL/DL camp in June. The coaching staff plans to monitor his progress this season.

"It feels like home down there," Coates said of Tuscaloosa. "It's like a home away from home. I like all of their facilities."

Luke Lawrence, 6-3, 295, guard, Tuscaloosa Hillcrest, was a standout camp performer in the spring. He earned MVP honors at the South Showcase Combine at Thomasville High School. Lawrence has picked up scholarship offers from Murray State, Navy, and Southeast Louisiana. He has been a starter at Hillcrest since his sophomore year and camped at Alabama this summer.

Other in-state linemen to watch: Paul Davis (Mountain Brook), Devin Gordon (Gadsden City), Jay Gresham (Minor), Tyler Lassiter (Hazel Green), Julian Cole (Florence), Steven Foster (Demopolis), Daniel Aust (Hoover), Nick Johnson (Dadeville), Ben Tamburello (Spain Park), Clay Machen (Auburn).

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The state of Alabama is loaded with defensive linemen. A few of the elite prospects have slipped out-of-state, but the Alabama coaching staff has reeled in some of the best in the class of 2012.

Darren Lake, 6-3, 328, 4.9, tackle, Sumter Central of York, was an unknown prospect before the summer. He attended camps at Tennessee and Alabama. That earned him a three-star ranking. More important, it earned him a scholarship offer from the Crimson Tide and Lake committed to Bama during his attendance at the OL/DL camp in Tuscaloosa. Lake had eight sacks in 2010.

"Alabama is a great place," said Lake. "That's why I committed. The coaches had a big smile on their faces especially Coach (Jim) McElwain. Coach Saban talked to me about my grades. He was happy. Alabama is close to home. I feel like Alabama is a great place to be. That's why I went ahead and committed. It feels good to be committed. I am committed to the



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For the very latest recruiting updates follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/AndrewJBone>
Reach Andrew Bone at abone@scout.com.

school I wanted to attend. I am solid with my commitment."

Ryan Anderson, 6-3, 250, 4.6, has played at middle linebacker for Daphne, but he is a three-star defensive end prospect. He committed to Alabama in the spring over offers from Auburn, Illinois, Kentucky, Memphis, South Alabama, South Florida, Tennessee, Troy, and UAB. He moved from defensive end to middle linebacker during the spring and has found a new home. He had 75 tackles in 2010, 14.5 sacks, 11 tackles for loss and one interception. He helped lead Daphne to the Class 6A state title last season.

He is solid with his commitment to the Tide.

"I like everything about Alabama," said Anderson. "That's where I wanted to be."

Daphne Coach Glen Vickery is also high on his standout defensive player. "When Ryan started out, he was an athletic kid with no experience," said Vickery. "With each snap he got under his belt, he got better and better every game. At the end of the season, offenses would run away from him. Ryan's motor never stops going. He plays the game with high intensity. He's a very physical player, very hard to block, and fast."

Caleb Gullledge, 6-4, 280, end, Prattville, is a three-star prospect who committed to the Crimson Tide last October. He already had scholarship offers at that time from Kentucky, South Alabama, and Wake Forest. He grew up a big Alabama fan and decided to pull the trigger early after collecting an offer two summers ago.

"My parents have always been Auburn fans, but there is a good side to that," said Gullledge. "When my family and I took a visit to Alabama they said that this is where I need to be. They said Alabama is the best school for me. It made me happy they actually agreed with my decision. They never really pushed me toward Auburn. We went to the Iron Bowl last year and my dad was actually going crazy when Alabama was winning."

Gullledge also plays on the offensive line for the powerhouse Prattville program. He could get a look at guard when he arrives in Tuscaloosa.

"I am very happy about playing defense," he said. "It is my preference. I am so in love with Alabama that if they wanted me to play offense, I would have played it. But I talked to Coach (Kirby) Smart a lot, and they are recruiting me for defense. They told me that offense could be a possibility, but when I went to the offensive and defensive lineman camp they told me that defense is what they want me to play."

Chris Casher, 6-4, 240, 4.6, end from Mobile, is a national 100 player. He committed to FSU over dozens of offers, including one from Alabama. He played at Faith Academy but wanted to transfer to Davidson this year, which could affect his eligibility.

Justin Shanks, 6-3, 310, tackle, Prattville, is a national 100 player who committed to Florida State over some 20 other schools, including Alabama.

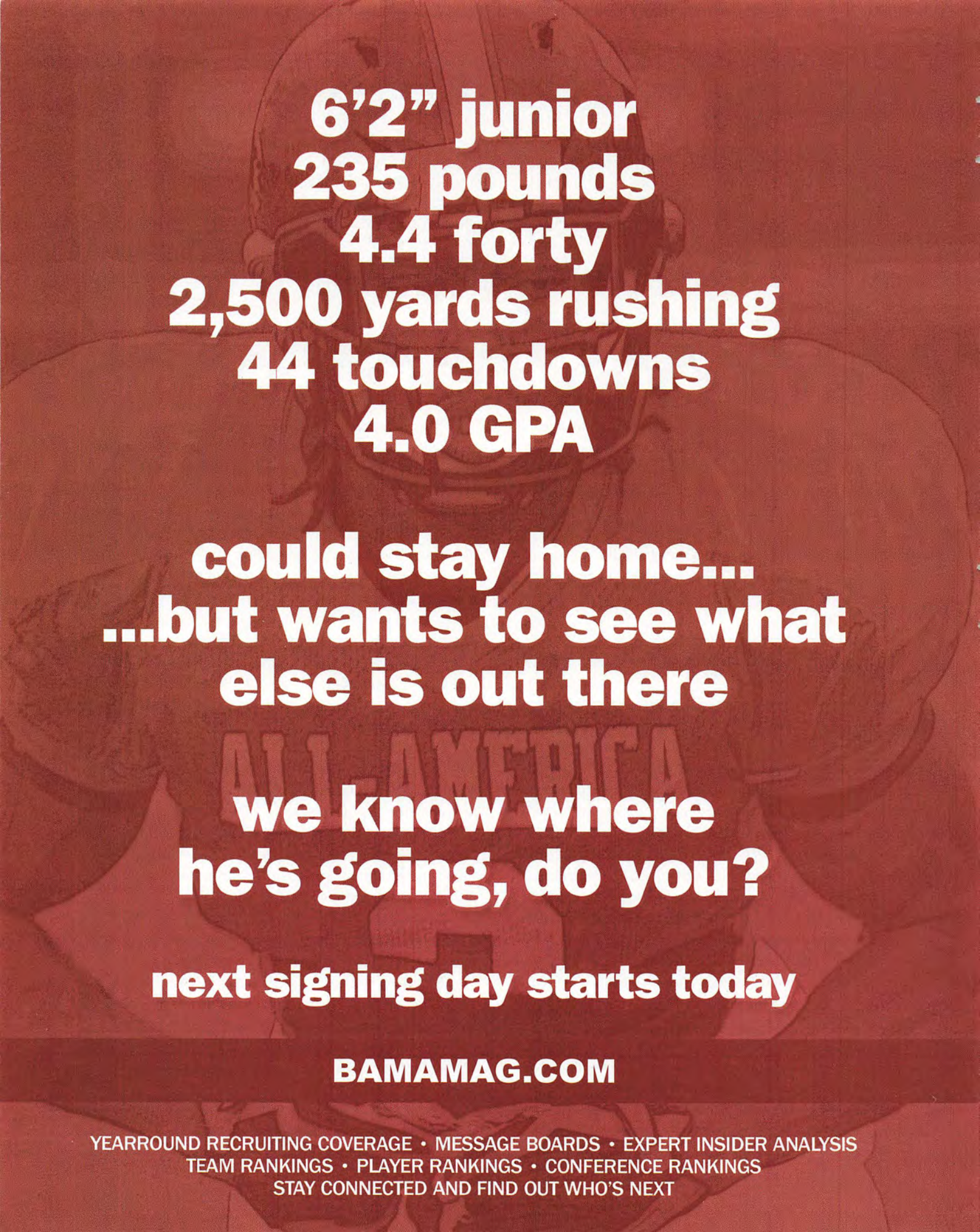
Darius Philon, 6-2, 265, 4.7, end, Vigor of Prichard, was a three-star defensive tackle with few offers prior to the spring. This summer he collected offers from Alabama and Auburn, and he committed to Auburn after an unofficial visit. Later he went to the Alabama camp and earned an offer from the Tide. Philon then decommitted and is now considered an Alabama lean. Philon plans to attend games in Tuscaloosa this fall. He finished his junior season with 89 tackles.

"Right now I am focusing on my grades," said Philon. "If I don't pass my classes my college decision won't matter. That's the important thing for me."

Tyler Nero, 6-2, 285, 4.7, four-star defensive tackle from Escambia County in Atmore, put an end to his recruitment in July with a commitment to Auburn. Alabama had offered him.

Others to watch: Dalvin Craft (Escambia County), Rashad Blackwell (Dadeville), Torey Agee (Opelika), Jamichael Winston (Vigor), Eric Lee (Daphne).

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HOT LIST

2012 ALABAMA FOOTBALL PROSPECTS

2012 Alabama Football Prospects who have received offers from the Crimson Tide, as determined by Andrew Bone of 'BAMA Magazine and Scout.com

Kwon Alexander, 6-2, 210, 4.6, LB, Oxford

Vadal Alexander, 6-5, 329, OT, Buford, Ga.

*Ryan Anderson, 6-3, 248, DE, Daphne

Denico Autry, 6-6, 250, DE, Scooba, Miss. (East Mississippi C.C.)

*Dakota Ball, 6-2, 282, DT, Lindale, Ga. (Pepperell)

Zach Banner, 6-9, 295, OT, Lakewood, Wash. (Lakes)

Faton Bauta, 6-3, 220, QB, Palm Beach Garden, Fla. (Wm. T. Dwyer)

Deion Belue, 6-0, 170, CB, Booneville, Miss. (Northeast Mississippi C.C.)

*Chris Black, 5-11, 160, WR, Jacksonville, Fla. (First Coast)

Beniquez Brown, 6-2, 205, LB, Florence, Ala.

Jonathan Bullard, 6-5, 250, DE, Shelby, N.C. (Crest)

Deon Bush, 6-1, 180, 4.4, CB, Miami, Fla. (Columbus)

Landon Collins, 6-0, 203, 4.5, S, Geismar, La. (Dutchtown)

Amarì Cooper, 6-2, 180, 4.5, Miami, Fla. (Northwestern)

T.J. Davis, 6-1, 180, 4.4, CB, Tallahassee, Fla. (Godby)

Denzell Devall, 6-2, 240, 4.6, DE, Bastrop, La.

Travell Dixon, 6-2, 200, 4.46, CB, Thatcher, Ariz. (Eastern Arizona)

*Kenyan Drake, 6-0, 184, 4.40, RB, Powder Springs, Ga. (Hillgrove)

Trae Elston, 6-0, 170, CB, Oxford

Quay Evans, 6-3, 300, DT, Morton, Miss.

Kurt Freitag, 6-3.5, 217, TE, Buford, Ga.

Devin Fuller, 6-0, 185, 4.48, Old Tappan, N.J. (No. Valley Reg. Old Tappan)

*Casey Gladney, 6-1, 180, 4.4, WR, Columbia, S.C.

Eddie Goldman, 6-3, 290, 5.3, DT, Washington D.C. (Edison-Friendship)

*Brandon Greene, 6-5, 276, OT, Ellenwood, Ga. (Cedar Grove)

Dorial Green-Beckham, 6-5, 210, WR, Springfield, Mo. (Hillcrest)

*Adam Griffith, 5-9, 165, K, Calhoun, Ga.

*Caleb Gullledge, 6-4.5, 280, DE, Prattville

*Tyler Hayes, 6-3, 215, 4.6, LB, Thomasville, Ala.

Brandon Hill, 6-6, 350, OT, Collierville (St. George's)

Tracy Howard, 6-0, 165, CB, Miramar, Fla.

Andrew Jelks, 6-6, 260, 5.0, OT, Paris, Tenn. (Henry County)

Jordan Jenkins, 6-2.5, 225, 4.69, DE, Hamilton, Ga. (Harris County)

Cyrus Jones, 5-10, 185, 4.47, RB, Baltimore, Md. (Gilman)

*Darren Lake, 6-3, 328, 4.9, DT, York, Ala. (Sumter County)

Quanzell Lambert, 6-2, 230, MLB, Erial, N.J. (Timber Creek)

*Dillon Lee, 6-3.5, 220, LB, Buford, Ga.

Jeremy Liggins, 6-4, 235, QB, Oxford, Miss. (Lafayette)

Korren Kirven, 6-5, 275, DT, Lynchburg, Va. (Brookville)

Keith Marshall, 5-11, 180, 4.32, RB, Raleigh, N.C. (Millbrook)

Daniel McCullers, 6-5, 340, DT, Milledgeville, Ga. (Georgia Military)

D'Vario Montgomery, 6-3, 211, WR, Winter Park, Fla.

*Alec Morris, 6-4, 235, QB, Allen, Texas

Danny O'Brien, 6-3, 287, DT, Flint, Mich. (Powers Catholic)

Caleb Peterson, 6-4, 292, OG, Auburn

*Reggie Ragland, 6-4, 245, MLB, Madison (Bob Jones)

Barry Sanders, 5-9, 180, RB, Oklahoma City, Okla. (Heritage Hall)

Russell Shell, 5-11, 215, RB, Aliquippa, Pa. (Hopewell)

*Geno Smith, 5-11, 160, 4.47, CB, Atlanta, Ga. (St. Pius X)

*Justin Taylor, 5-10, 216, RB, Atlanta, Ga. (Washington)

*Justin Thomas, 5-11, 180, 4.34, QB, Prattville

Dalvin Tomlinson, 6-3, 270, 4.94, DE, McDonough, Ga. (Henry County)

Channing Ward, 6-4, 220, 4.5, DE, Aberdeen, Miss.

Aldophus Washington, 6-6, 240, DE, Cincinnati, Ohio (Taft)

Jordan Watkins, 6-5, 267, DE, College Park, Ga. (Woodward Academy)

*Eddie Williams, 6-4, 205, 4.5, S, Panama City Beach, Fla. (Arnold)

Leonard Williams, 6-5, 250, DE, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Mainland)

Avery Young, 6-5, 270, OT, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

*Committed to Alabama

START WITH DEFENSE

Tide soccer has some stop ability

A football – American football – adage has it that, “If they don’t score, they can’t beat you.” Defense is important in almost every team sport and will be for Alabama soccer as Coach Todd Bramble begins his fourth season with the Crimson Tide.

Last year’s Bama record was 8-8-2. In none of those eight wins and two ties did Alabama allow more than one goal. The Tide pitched six shutouts. Now Bama has to get some fire-power on offense. In the eight losses and two ties the Tide was shut out six times and scored one goal in the other matches.

Alabama was outstanding in allowing just 1.33 goals per game and a shooting percentage of just .094. Unfortunately, Bama scored just 1.11 goals per game on .080 shooting.

The 8-8-2 mark marked the second time in three seasons Alabama has reached the .500 mark. Bramble led the Tide to an undefeated start (3-0-2) in the first five matches of the Southeastern Conference season which marks the first time since 1995 an Alabama squad has done so. After the highlight of the season – a 1-1 tie with Florida – Bama failed to win in its final six outings.

Florida was ranked sixth in the nation when Bama earned its 1-1 draw. It marked the first Alabama point against the Gators since 2005. Unfortunately, the effort did not have a springboard effect as the Tide scored only three goals in losing its last six matches.

Ideally, the 2011 Alabama team will reap some confidence from the 2010 contest against the Gators.

Individually last season, three players nabbed All-SEC honors, which tied the 2004 team for the most in school history. Goalkeeper Justine Bernier became the first Alabama player to earn first team accolades since 1999. Forward Victoria Frederick (now graduated)



Todd Bramble

was named to the second team and newcomer Molly Atherton nabbed all-freshman honors. Bernier also became just the second player in school history to be named a first team NSCAA All-Region selection. Over the course of the season the goalkeeper broke the school record in saves and shutouts.

Bernier returns for her senior season. The 5-10 Canadian now holds the Crimson Tide records for career saves with 338 (the old record was 301 by Amy Peja, 1994-96) and the career shutout record held by Laura Lowman (2001-04) with her 14th goose egg. Bernier had five shutouts and 77 saves in 14 games. She allowed only 16 goals. She had three shutouts and 63 saves as Alabama went 3-6-2 in SEC play.

She spent time last year training with the Canadian World Cup Team, and then returned to post four consecutive shutouts.

It takes more than the goalkeeper, of course. Another senior, K.K. Duffy, started all 18 matches in the center of the defense in her first season at Alabama. The transfer from Clemson led the Tide with 1,668 minutes played. She logged 90 or more minutes on 15 occasions. She played every minute on the back line in Bama’s five consecutive shutouts.

Alabama had a span of 556 game minutes without allowing a goal. (K.K.’s sister, Meghan, also transferred to Alabama from Clemson. The sophomore is also primarily a defender.)

Molly Atherton had a big first season for Alabama and the 5-5 native of Gulfport, Mississippi, was named to the All-SEC Freshman Team. An attacker as a prep star, Atherton started all 18 matches at midfield as a true freshman. She had two assists on the year. She played all 110 minutes in overtime ties against LSU and Florida.

Kendall Khanna, a 5-7 sophomore forward who played out wide

Molly Atherton was All-SEC
Freshman team last year



2011 ALABAMA SOCCER ROSTER

No	Name	Pos	Hgt	Cl	Hometown
17	Ariel Armijo	MF	5-8	So	Littleton, Colo.
56	Molly Atherton	MF		So	Gulfport, Miss.
1	Justine Bernier	G	5-10	Sr	Oakville, Ontario
0	Shanna Brooks	G	5-5	So	Birmingham
6	Kylee Brown	F	5-5	So	Salt Lake City, Utah
00	Lauren Davis	G	6-2	Fr	Slidell, La.
44	Theresa Diederich	MF	5-6	Fr	Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.
4	K.K. Duffy	D	5-7	Sr	Atlanta
18	Meghan Duffy	D	5-8	Jr	Atlanta
11	Kara Fasano	F	5-3	Fr	Alpharetta, Ga.
5	Kendall Khanna	F	5-7	So	Littleton, Colo.
33	Tia King	MF	5-3	Jr	Mooresville, N.C.
23	Shannon Lathrop	MF	5-7	Sr	Birmingham
15	Carly Mygrants	D	5-8	Sr	Dayton, Ohio
10	Megan Petersen	D	5-6	Jr	Vista, Calif.
99	Courtney Pixler	D	5-8	So	Sammamish, Wash.
8	Josie Rix	MF	5-8	Jr	Signal Mountain, Tenn.
9	Pia Rusdijk	F	5-9	Fr	Numansdorp, Netherlands
13	Lindsey Sillers	F	5-6	Jr	Birmingham
12	Janea Simpson	F	5-2	Fr	Tuscaloosa
14	Kaitlyn Smith	MF	5-8	Jr	Franklin, Tenn.
16	Laura Lee Smith	F	5-7	Fr	Jackson, Miss.
20	Ashley Willis	MF	5-5	Jr	Colorado Springs, Colo.
25	Veronika Wolfkeil	D	5-8	Sr	Niceville, Fla.
2	Katie Woolbright	D	5-10	Jr	Coto de Caza, Calif.

Head Coach: Todd Bramble

Assistant Coaches: Tatum Clowney and Jason Lowe

on attack last year, played in all 18 matches and started 13. The fleet-footed Colorado native had one goal and two assists, including one for the game-winner against Texas Tech. She had the game-winning goal against Mississippi State.

Experienced seniors for Bama include:

Shanon Lathrop, one of the few Alabama (Birmingham and Oak Mountain High School) natives on the squad, is a 5-7 midfielder who played in 13 matches and had seven starts. She has 19 career starts at Alabama.

Carly Mygrants, a 5-8 defender from Dayton, Ohio, played in 16 matches and had 11 starts last year. She started on the back line in all six Bama shutouts. She was out the entire 2009 season with an injury. She had one start as a freshman and 17 as a sophomore in 2008.

Veronika Wolfkeil, a 5-8 defender from Niceville, Florida, played in 15 matches and had eight starts last year. She had 18 starts as a sophomore in 2009.

Two juniors started all 18 matches for the Tide last year as sophomores.

Kaitlyn Smith, a 5-8 middle fielder, is a versatile player who plays various positions. She also played and started all 18 games as a freshman in 2009.

Ashley Willis, a 5-5 defender, is also a two-year starter with 36 starts in her first two seasons. She was second only to Bernier

in minutes played last year with 1,561. She had 1,644 minutes of playing time as a freshman.

Junior Megan Peterson, a 5-6 defender, played in 16 matches with nine starts on the back line last year. She had also played in 17 games with six starts as a true freshman in 2009.

Theresa Diederich, a 5-6 middlefielder, was a freshman last year, but was injured and redshirted. Five new freshmen join the squad this year. They are Lauren Davis, a 6-2 goalkeeper; Kara Fasano, a 5-3 forward; Laura Lee Smith, a 5-7 forward; Pia Rijdsdijk, a 5-9 forward; and Janea Simpson, a 5-2 forward.

Alabama had a pre-season exhibition game against Clemson, the school where Bramble coached for seven years before taking the Alabama job prior to the 2008 season. The Tide took a 2-0 win. Afterwards, Bramble said, "It was nice to get a win; every time you put on the jersey you want to win. You have to put that in perspective, though, as both coaches experimented with their teams. I was certainly pleased with the two goals and the shutout but there are areas that we need to keep working on."

As Bama started fall camp, Bramble said he was pleased with the fitness level of his team and with the effort and concentration.

"We are trying to establish a pecking order, so for them to compete hard against each other will only make us better," Bramble said. ■

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VOLLEYBALL BY 'BAMA STAFF

Alabama volleyball
rebuilds under
new coach

GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

Stephanie Riley is line senior
for Alabama volleyball

University of Alabama

"It's going to have a huge impact on our ability to attract the kind of athletes we expected to get at Alabama. For them to see the atmosphere they're going to play in and how they are going to be taken care of makes the facility vital to our success. The fact that we



Although Alabama returns four starters from last year, Allen pointed out that the highest honor for any of them is second

The 2011 Alabama team includes only one senior, 5-7 setter Stephanie Riley. Riley said the tempo is much faster under Allen than it had been. She has been impressed by how hard the team has worked in preparing for the season.

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2011 ALABAMA VOLLEYBALL ROSTER

No	Name	Pos	Hgt	Cl	Hometown
12	Kelsey Anderson	L/DS	5-8	Jr	Louisville, Ky.
2	Cristina Arenas	L/DS	5-6	So	Cypress, Texas
7	Kayla Fitterer	OH	6-0	Jr	Edwardsville, Ill.
13	Shelbi Goode	MB/OH	6-2	So	Georgetown, Texas
11	Simone Henderson	MB/OH	5-11	Fr	Thousand Palms, Calif.
6	Taylor Masterson	MB	6-1	Fr	Chesterfield, Mo.
3	Andrea McQuaid	S	5-10	So	Ovilla, Texas
5	Kelsey Melito	DS	5-8	So	Atlanta
9	Leigh Moyer	MB	6-2	Jr	Peachtree City, Ga.
1	Stephanie Riley	S	5-7	Sr	Louisville, Ky.
4	Brianne Vande Griend	OH	6-0	So	Colorado Springs, Colo.
14	Katherine White	MB	6-1	Fr	Mobile

Head Coach: Ed Allen

Assistant Coaches: Julia Silva and Ryan Wills

"They are hungry to win," Allen said. "They want to win. They are starting to understand and have the attitude, 'How much do you hate to lose?' We are trying to teach them to go above and beyond, to do what others won't."

In addition to Fitterer, Alabama returns Kelsey Anderson, a 5-8 junior who was starting libero; Leigh Moyer, a 6-2 junior middle blocker; and Brianne Vane Griend, a 6-0 sophomore opposite hitter.

Other letter winners returning are Shelbi Goode, a 6-2 sophomore middle blocker/opposite hitter; and Kelsey Melito, a 5-8 sophomore libero.

It would hardly be a surprise for a coaching in a rebuilding situation to have his newcomers.

In addition to the three transfers, the Tide has three freshmen new on board. They are Simone Henderson, a 5-11 middle blocker/opposite hitter; Taylor Masterson, a 6-1 middle blocker; and Katherine White, a 6-1 middle blocker from Mobile, the only Alabama native on the roster.

Fitterer, a native of Edwardsville, Illinois, led Alabama in most categories last year, including kills, service aces, and points. Anderson was tops in digs.

Allen said Bama will have to play well in the pre-Southeastern Conference schedule to be able to reach its goals of a winning season. One way that will happen is if the Crimson Tide can achieve another of Allen's goals:

"Defend out home court," he said.

"It's going to be hard to be .500 in the SEC," Allen said. That's understandable since Alabama tied Mississippi State for the worst record in conference games last year at 3-17. Bama was only 11-19 overall. Alabama was 7-7 at home and 3-1 in neutral site matches,

but 1-11 on the road. The Tide started the season 8-2, but won only three times in the final 20 matches.

"If we could triple our number of conference wins, I would be thrilled," the coach said.

Allen is upbeat. "If we get healthy and can handle the frustrations that come, we will be okay," he said. "Chemistry is not going to be an issue. Our players will compete well and compete hard. But you have to have an element of talent. We have to execute those things well.

"Half a dozen times this year, we want a team leaving Foster Auditorium saying, 'How did we lose to those guys?'"

Allen keeps coming back to the focal point of Alabama volleyball: Foster Auditorium.

"Foster is going to create a lot of energy for the team and an atmosphere that fans will want to come back to," he said. "Playing in an intimate environment is going to be a huge home court advantage for us and it provides an opportunity to springboard the program. Additionally, it has all the bells and whistles that should help attract top-notch recruits.

"It was a huge selling point in my decision to come to Alabama."

Allen, who is assisted by Julia Silva and Ryan Wills, who were Allen's assistants at Tulsa, comes to Bama with impressive credentials. He was both Conference USA and Regional Coach of the Year last year at Tulsa. In his five seasons at Tulsa his teams had a record of 133-37, including a 31-3 record last year. The 31 wins was a Tulsa record and included a 20-0 record in conference matches. His career record as a head coach in 19 seasons is 494-183, a 72.9 per cent success rate. ■



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PRETTY DARNED GOOD

New coach upbeat about cross country

Cross country more than just goes with the territory for Dan Waters. Although Waters was brought to Alabama last spring by Athletics Director Mal Moore to take over the entire men's and women's track and field programs, the new head man has particular expertise in cross country. Additionally, one of his staff members is Adam Tribble, another outstanding cross country coach.

Waters said in the pre-season that "We're working fast and furious, trying to get to know the athletes." He said it was important to try "to learn how they like to be coached and ways we can reach them the best and make them the best they can be and give them the chance to keep improving."

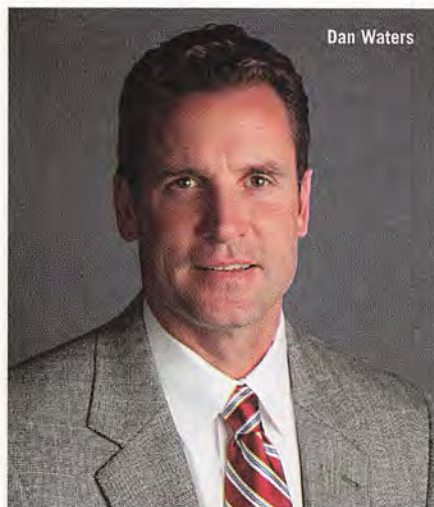
While there were issues with Alabama's overall track and field programs – previously split with men under Harvey Glance and women under Sandy Fowler – the cross country teams were competitive. Bama previously had the cross country teams coached by the track and field assistant coaches for distance events.

Now Waters will be the head coach for the men's and women's cross country teams.

"There's a lot of talent that was left here," Waters said.

"On the men's side we have some international athletes from Kenya that we're going to be banking on. They've been running hard all summer and they're extremely fit. We've added a few other elements on that side that we hope will make us successful. There could be some pretty special things that can happen but it's going to come down to how well they buy into the program and how fast they can believe in what we're trying to teach them and implement our strategies. I think we just need to bring that together for one meet for them to see 'hey we're pretty darned good.'"

"On the women's side, there are five or six pretty darned good



Dan Waters

athletes. If we can bring them together and get them to buy into our system, I think we can have a pretty exceptional season. I don't want to make any bold predictions, but I think we can have a season we'll be very happy with and the girls will be very satisfied with."

MEN'S OUTLOOK

Alabama returns four members of the 2010 Crimson Tide team that finished second in the Southeastern Conference, won the NCAA regional, and finished 11th at the NCAA championship meet.

The veteran roster includes eight seniors and could be bolstered by the return of Fred Samoei, a senior who did not compete last year in order to concentrate on his 800-meter training. Samoei won the NCAA indoor

championships at 800.

Other veteran seniors returning to the squad include Carison Kemei, Joel Rop, and Moses Kiptoo. Kemei and Rop both earned All-SEC honors in 2010 as Bama finished second in the conference championship event. The Crimson Tide had won the two previous SEC titles. Bama has won the past four NCAA Regional championships. Last year all five scoring runners for Alabama finished in the top 15 to earn All-Regional.

Kiptoo was an All-America in 2009 in cross country. Kemei was an NAIA All-America in 2009 when competing for McKendree University in Illinois. Rop was a National Junior College All-America at Butler Community College.

In track and field, Samoei has a best time of 3:58:84 in the mile.

Although it is an experienced Alabama men's cross country team, there is also expected help in the form of a freshman Matt Joyner, last year's prep cross country champion in Tennessee. He was a high school All-America.

WOMEN'S OUTLOOK

Alabama returns its top six runners from last season and has a veteran roster that includes eight juniors and seniors.

Alabama's top performer at the 2010 SEC Championships is returning senior Kelsey Johnson. For the most part, she had a disappointing junior season owing to injury and illness. In her absence, Andrea Torske rose to the challenge and had a breakout junior season and was the top finisher for Alabama in the majority of meets.

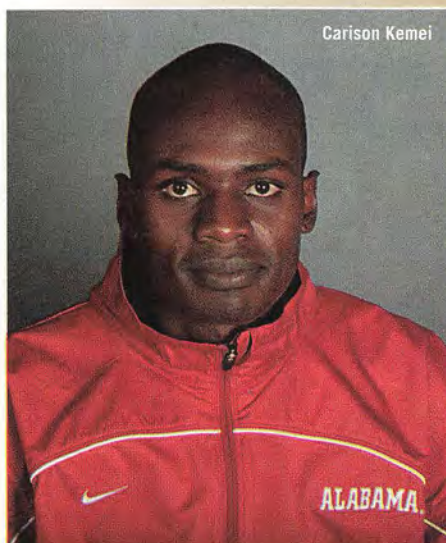
Torske posted a 6-kilometer personal best at the NCAA South Region Championships and was the Tide's top finisher at 32nd place as Bama finished seventh. Her time of 21:00.73 was the fastest by a Bama runner last year. She also had the Tide's top times at 4- and 5-kilometer events.

Also returning at the top of the lineup is senior Leigh Gilmer and junior Elsbeth Denton. Gilmore was the Tide's number two runner through most of last season, including finishing just behind Torske at 36th, after Gilmore had been 25th at the SEC Championships. Denter participated in all six races, including setting a personal best at 6 kilometers in the NCAA Regional meet.

Also returning is junior Katlyn Will. As a sophomore she showed consistent improvement. She ran in six races and scored in five.

Alabama returns two sophomores who gained valuable experience in 2010. Claire Turner was the only UA freshman to earn a spot in the lineup for the SEC Championships, while Palee Myrex competed in a pair of meets for the Tide.

The Crimson Tide teams will again face a challenging schedule with a gradual build-up to prepare the team for the championship portion of the season. Additionally, the teams will compete twice at the home course this season with the annual Crimson Classic on October 15 and as host of the NCAA South Region Championships on November 12. The regional meet, which the Alabama men's team has won eight of the past 12 seasons, plays a major part in determining the field for the NCAA Championship meet.



Carison Kemei



Andrea Torske

2011 ALABAMA CROSS COUNTRY ROSTERS

Men

Name	Cl	Hometown (Last School)
Nathan Corder	Sr	Pickerington, Ohio (Pickerington North)
Austin Duckworth	Sr	Vestavia Hills
Nicholas Hayes	Sr	Hoover
Matt Joyner	Fr	Jackson, Tenn. (Madison)
Carison Kemei	Sr	Eldoret, Kenya (McKendree)
Evan Kendrick	So	Birmingham (Mountain Brook)
Moses Kiptoo	Sr	Kenya (Mother of Apostles)
David May	Sr	Atlanta (Kennesaw Mountain)
Joel Rop	Sr	Eldoret Kenya (Butler CC)
Fred Samoei	Sr	Moiben, Kenya (South Plains)

Women

Name	Cl	Hometown (Last School)
Elsbeth Denton	Jr	Birmingham (Vestavia Hills)
Leigh Gilmore	Sr	Grove Hill (UMS Wright)
Sarah Gilmore	Sr	Grove Hill (UMS Wright)
Kelsey Johnson	Sr	Iowa Park, Texas
Palee Myrex	So	Bremen, Ga. (Cold Springs)
ChaLyce Stancil	Jr	Cullman (Troy)
Andrea Torske	Sr	Rowlett, Texas (Garland)
Claire Turner	So	Signal Mountain, Tenn. (Red Bank)
Dayle Van Ess	Sr	Totowa, N.J. (Tampa)
Katlyn Will	Jr	LaGrange, Ga. (Corinth)
Aubrielle Wright	So	Hampton, Ga. (Westlake)

Head Coach: Don Waters

Assistant Coach: Adam Tribble

NEW ON BOARD

Football, track & field
add staff members



Jeff Springer

University of Alabama

Jeff Springer has some big tank tracks to follow. Tank Conerly was Alabama athletics equipment director for some 23 years before his retirement last spring. Springer now has the important job of dealing with Crimson Tide football equipment needs.

When the Alabama football team makes its way to the locker room for games on fall Saturdays, Crimson Tide Coach Nick Saban was always flanked by Highway Patrolman Jessie Peoples and by Conerly. Last year, Conerly—one of the most admired men in his profession—announced his retirement.

Springer comes to Tuscaloosa after having served four years in that position at Louisiana Tech.

Springer is a familiar face to Saban. Springer served as assistant equipment manager at LSU from 2003-05, when Saban was head coach of the Fighting Tigers.

Springer also served as equipment manager at The Citadel in 2006-07.

He interned with the Miami Dolphins, Tulane, and LSU. The Slidell, La., native earned his degree from LSU in 2001.

Former University of Alabama All-American and national champion Miguel Pate has been hired as an assistant coach on the Crimson Tide's track and field staff, head coach Dan Waters announced Thursday.

"Miguel is a great addition to our staff and he's exactly what we need and are looking for in our program," Waters said. "He's energetic and has the passion and desire to be a great coach. He has a great background and reputation in the South as a coach and athlete. Plus he carries the experience of being a national champion and understands the level at which we aim to compete."

Pate returns to his alma mater after a season as an assistant at Samford following a successful professional career. At Alabama he will serve as the assistant sprints coach while also assisting with the jumps and various other areas of the program.

"This is a great opportunity for me and I'm extremely excited about being in position to help bring Alabama back to a national level," Pate said. "The transition from professional to collegiate coach has been a smooth one and I feel I'm comfortable working with student-athletes and helping them perform at their best. This opportunity will allow me to do that and learn from the incredible coaching staff Coach Waters has in place already."

As a student-athlete at Alabama from 1999-2002, Pate captured the NCAA indoor long jump title in 2002 and finished second in the triple jump. That same indoor season he set the collegiate indoor long jump record with a mark of 28-2.25 at the USA Indoor Championships and won a bronze medal at the World Championships. He was a seven-time All-America at Alabama and was ranked in the top five in the USA and the top ten in the world in the long jump for eight consecutive years. He still owns the UA records in both the long jump and triple jump indoors and the school record in the outdoor long jump.

In 2008 he finished third at the US Olympic Trials to earn his first spot on an Olympic team at the Beijing Games. He ended the 2008 season ranked number one in the U.S. by Track & Field News and followed that up with a fourth-place finish at the USA Outdoor Championships. He ended that season ranked third in the country by Track & Field News before retiring from competition to begin his coaching career.

For those in journalism, there was a huge loss in Alabama's media relations office this year. Brenda Burnette, who had been the administrative assistant since the early 1980s, retired. ■



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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The fullback in Bama's Italian Battalion

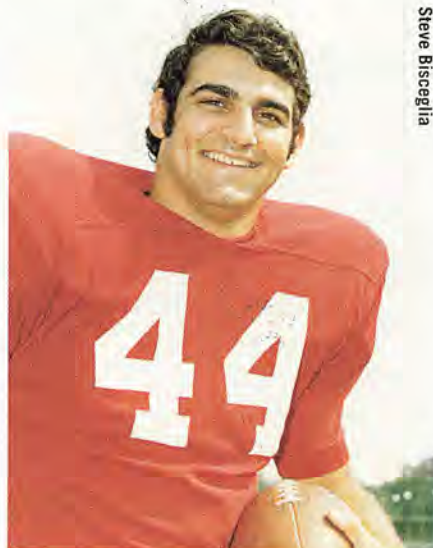
Restoring pride in wearing the crimson jersey is the legacy of the 1971 Alabama football team. Almost as indelible in the minds of the Crimson Tide faithful was the offensive scheme adopted producing a decade of league dominance. One other unique signature may never be duplicated. A triplet of individuals lining up in the Y-shaped formation shared a distinct ethnic heritage. The Italian battalion wishbone was manned at halfback by two Birmingham native sons, Johnny Musso and via Memphis, Joe LaBue. Fullback Steve Bisceglia, imported from California, completed the trio.

The Bisceglia migration began with a family connection. An Alabama letterman living in San Jose. Hilmon Walker was a member of the Bama team with Paul Bryant that defeated Stanford in the 1935 Rose Bowl. Bisceglia's Aunt Clorinda and her husband were friends of Walker, a native of Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Steve said, "He knew Aunt Clorinda's brother, Bruno, Sr., had two very athletic boys, Steve and Bruno, Jr. He evidently called Coach Bryant and said I have a boy out here that can play for you." Steve's older brother by two years, Bruno, Jr., (a guard and linebacker), had received a scholarship to UCLA. After his senior campaign Steve, a fullback, and his father were invited by Bryant to meet him in Los Angeles, where he was staying for the 1969 NCAA Coaches' Convention. Walker's evaluation was accepted with absolute confidence but a scholarship for the coming season was not available. "If you want to go to junior college I will save a scholarship for you," promised Bryant. That was better than the college offers Bisceglia had coming out of Bullard High in Fresno.

Bisceglia also had to take a look at baseball. The right-handed pitcher was drafted in the 72nd round by the Kansas City Royals in 1969.

In 1969 Bisceglia's California junior college team won the state title and Steve was a hot commodity. He would receive over 80 scholarship offers while at Fresno City College. Bama Running Backs Coach John David Crow flew west to finalize the agreement. Bisceglia visited The Capstone and met with Bryant. He also met Musso, and envisioned himself in a two-back set. Bisceglia had running, blocking, and pass catching skills--perfect for the pro-set style employed by the Crimson Tide. Colorado, Michigan State, New Mexico and Alabama were the four serious suitors. Bryant's frequent



Steve Bisceglia

substitution strategy was a factor in the decision, and so was the fact that Colorado and New Mexico ran the wishbone.

Bisceglia said, "I was readily accepted at Alabama because I did play on the football team. As far as my teammates, they thought if Coach Bryant thought you were a man of character and could play for him then they would give you the benefit of the doubt. The rest was proving yourself as far as your abilities and work ethic. I saw some great athletes at Alabama. I worked real hard. I thought my biggest asset was being in good enough physical shape at crunch time in the fourth quarter that I didn't make mental mistakes."

Bisceglia progressed up the depth chart after acclimating to the speed of the Alabama squad. "It was a good fit in the spring to the fullback position," he recalled.

Bisceglia, LaBue and Musso naturally bonded. "It's hard not to like Joe LaBue," Bisceglia said. "Johnny (Musso) is such a great gentleman and leader."

The camaraderie went beyond the gridiron. "We took some pride in that," Musso said. "A backfield at Alabama comprised of three Italians. It probably wouldn't have been a big deal if we were playing at Penn State but yeah that was kind of a fun thing. We joked about it, but underlying that there was some pride in that as well."

Midway through the season Bisceglia became a starter. He and Ellis Beck continued to rotate. "Steve was a fantastic fullback," LaBue said. "He wasn't real big. He was quick, had so much body lean and ran low to the ground. He came into Bryant Hall with that California lingo. We were really fond of each other and respected one another."

The California perspective was a welcomed addition to the predominately Southern roster. Musso was amused by the newcomer. "He was a free spirit," Musso said. "He's one of those California boys that we had to get kind of accustomed to in Tuscaloosa. He brought the sunflower seeds to Bryant Hall. They were all over his room, Bryant Hall and everywhere he went. Steve was a great teammate and a lot of fun, a great friend and just a free spirit. He was one of those guys that lifted the mood wherever he was. You need some of those guys on the team particularly when you go through adversity or when there is a lot of pressure or for big games the guy that can break the ice a bit to relieve the atmosphere and Steve certainly did that."

A reputation was quickly established by the 5-11, 195-pound

fullback. "He was a very determined player," Musso said. "He had this herky-jerky kind of gait. He made it really hard for at tackler to get a bead on him. He was kind of a sly runner and kind of sneaky quick. He didn't have a smooth, balanced running style, but was very effective because it kept the defense guessing where he was going. The thing that really stands out about Steve is how determined he was. He turned out to be a great blocker. He was very undersized for the position he was playing, but he got the job done through determination mainly."

Although Bryant did not decide to make the wishbone the basic Alabama offense until just before fall camp, the Tide had worked on the offense in goalline work in the spring of 1971. That summer, Bisceglia went to Bogalusa, Louisiana, home of quarterback Terry Davis, and they worked on the intricate quarterback-fullback exchange that is the first option in the triple option offense.

"He was a fantastic player for the wishbone," said Terry Davis, the first Alabama quarterback to operate the popular option offense. "He wasn't what you would draw up in size and stature, but he had good quickness and he was very intelligent." Once in the secondary, Bisceglia possessed a long, striding running style contrasting to the short, choppy steps of the typical fullback. Smart, consistent and tough were the trademark qualities distinguishing his play.

No other game more epitomized the resurgence of Alabama football than the Friday night contest against USC at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum to open the 1971 season. Suffering a humiliating 42-21 debacle in Birmingham the prior year, Alabama unveiled the wishbone offense and a defense primed for redemption. Bisceglia debuted in his home state competing against high school teammate Trojan linebacker Bob Eriksen and other Fresno prep rivals, most notably tight end Charles Young. Three carries for 27 yards failed to fully reflect Bisceglia's contribution to the 17-10 upset victory.

Bisceglia finished as the 1972 team rushing leader with 603 yards on 125 attempts for a 4.8 average earning second team All-SEC honors. Ten touchdowns, nine rushing and one receiving, topped the list as well. Statistically the best career performance for the two-year letter winner was a 102 yard bittersweet rushing effort as a senior in the Iron Bowl loss against Auburn. He deflects the individual accolades deferring to the one thousand plus total yards produced by the entire cast of fullbacks. "We were so ingrained with the team concept," he said.

The mountain community of Mariposa, California on the southern edge of Yosemite National Park is home. Majoring in Marketing and Psychology of Sales was a practical choice for the family owned business established since 1888 – a wine company. Over the years, he has operated in various sectors of the industry and maintains extensive contacts in Napa Valley and Sonoma. His degree was perfect for the cutting edge technology ventures he chose to pursue.

Bisceglia had been promoting a new labeling system converting from the traditional glue method to a heat sensitive stamping process – 200 bottles per minute. Conversion required him to convince the wineries to invest and assure them the printer and mobile bottler possessed the requisite technology to perform as advertised. Next to the wine, the label ranks as an important dynamic in the attractiveness of the product. An extensive background in the wine and printing business made him a natural selection to act as a conduit for the three entities.

Prior ventures ranged from security for rock concerts, a Christmas tree ranch at the foothills of Yosemite, and seminars in Australia and New Zealand on importing lamb to the United States.



Steve Bisceglia was tough for defenders to tackle

Bryant Museum

Additionally, he purchased king salmon from the Eskimos and managed a fleet of pontoon planes transporting the butchered fish flying them from the Yukon River to the Kuskokwim River in Alaska. He was involved with medical sales and state-of-the-art technologies associated with monitoring and cardiac equipment. Approached by the PGA Tour, he produced a private label of wines.

Currently Bisceglia is consulting on projects with companies in California and Mississippi resolving filtration issues. Selenium is a problem in the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. Alleviating the quandary requires millions of gallons of water to be filtered daily. "You have to grow the crop, kenaf, which makes the material used as the filter to absorb the selenium," he explained about the involved process. Bisceglia crystallized the magnitude of the situation alluding to one of American's greatest writers. "Like Mark Twain said, people fight over whiskey but they kill over water. That is the story of the West. It hasn't changed." The purified water is valuable to the farming industry.

Two years ago Bisceglia was watching his favorite college football team at a sports bar in Napa Valley when he was approached by the host of "Wanna Go Fishing?". Bisceglia was invited and accepted the invitation to be a guest on the made for TV fishing excursion show. He went to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico for a chance to hook marlin and giant tuna. The luxurious Casa de Casas ocean front estate provided the lodging for the spontaneous fishing experience of a lifetime.

"I'll try anything three times before I add it to my list of vices that become habits," he said.

Another triple option.

'BAMA SCORECARD

Notebooking Crimson Tide Sports

GREEN ON USA TEAM

Upcoming Alabama senior forward JaMychal Green got to see a little of the world this summer. Green was selected by USA Basketball for its final World University Games roster that represented the United States in the international event in Shenzhen, China.

Green, who is from Montgomery, was joined on the United States team by Tim Abromaitis (Notre Dame), Marcus Denmon (Missouri), Ashton Gibbs (Pittsburgh), Draymond Green (Michigan State), Scoop Jardine (Syracuse), John Jenkins (Vanderbilt), Orlando Johnson (UC Santa Barbara), Greg Mangano (Yale), Trevor Mbakwe (Minnesota), Ray McCallum (Detroit Mercy), and Darius Miller (Kentucky).

Tide sophomore forward Tony Mitchell participated in tryouts, but was not a finalist for the elite squad.

After several weeks of work at the U.S Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, the team had its first game against a Chinese professional team in an exhibition.

The team was to play games against national teams from Mexico, Hungary, South Korea, Finland, and Israel.

PANCAKE EXCELS

Brooke Pancake, a senior-to-be for the Alabama women's golf team, continued her excellent play into the summer, including reaching the semifinals of the 2011 United States Women's Amateur Championship. Pancake fell to defending champion Daniella Kang, 1-up, at the Rhode Island Country Club in Barrington, Rhode Island.

In the semifinals, the Chattanooga, Tennessee, native rallied from a 2-down deficit through 11 holes to take a 1 up lead with a birdie on the 15th hole. However, Kang battled back to win the 16th to square the match before Pancake's bogey 6 on the 18th hole allowed the defending champion to win the match with par.

Pancake is the second Alabama golfer to fall in the semifinals of the U.S. Amateur in as many years. Jennifer Kirby advanced to the semifinals a year ago before being knocked out Kang.

Pancake will now focus on her senior season at The Capstone, which was to open September 11-13 at the Cougar Classic at the Yeamans Hall Club in Charleston, South Carolina.

Prior to the U.S. Amateur, Pancake was honored with the 2011 Edith Cummings Munson Golf Award by the National Golf Coaches Association.

The award goes to the student-athlete who is an upper classman and both a NGCA All-American Scholar and a NGCA All-American. If more than one student-athlete qualifies, the student-athlete with the highest GPA receives the award. A donation of \$5,000 is given from the Curtis & Edith Cummings Munson Foundation to the general scholarship fund of the recipient's institution.

"This is a well-deserved honor for Brooke," Alabama Coach Mic Potter said. "She is the perfect candidate for the award because she is the ultimate combination of student and athlete. I wish everyone could know how dedicated Brooke is to both golf and academics, while also participating in our leadership program and on the Student



Brooke Pancake

University of Alabama

Athlete Advisory Committee. I would also like to thank the Munson family for the support of the NGCA and this award."

Pancake's first three seasons at Alabama has been the best in program history. She finished last season with first-team NGCA and Golfweek All-America honors on the course and first-team Academic All-America accolades off the course. She has compiled a 4.00 cumulative GPA and is majoring in marketing.

Pancake boasts a school-record 73.27 career scoring average with 15 top-10 finishes and 23 rounds at par or better. She captured her first tournament victory during the 2010-11 season with a win at the Tar Heel Invitational where she shot 11-under-par 205. She is a two-time SEC Women's Golf Scholar-Athlete of the Year, a three-time NGCA All-American Scholar, and a three-time All-SEC selection.

NOT TO BE OUTDONE

Former Alabama men's golfer Bud Cauley posted his first top-five finish on the PGA Tour this summer while current UA golfers Bobby Wyatt, Hunter Hamrick and Justin Thomas turned in impressive performances at the Southern Amateur.

Cauley, who decided to turn professional following his junior season at The Capstone last spring, posted a tie for fourth in the Viking Classic at the Annandale Golf Club in Madison, Mississippi. At that point, Cauley had made the cut in each of the three PGA Tour events he has played in since turning pro. He finished tied for 63rd at the U.S. Open at Congressional and tied for 24th at the Travelers Championship.

He shot 68-67-66-67 to finish at 20-under-par 268 at the Viking Classic, just two shots back of the winner. He earned a \$148,800 paycheck, the biggest of his young career. In three events

on the PGA Tour, Cauley had earned \$213,845.

Wyatt, a native of Mobile, finished in a tie for second place at the Southern Amateur. He closed with a 5-under-par 66 for a 72-hole total of 6-under-par 278 after rounds of 70, 72 and 70. Wyatt finished three strokes back of Harris English (-9, 275) and tied with Richy Werenski and Tarquin MacManus at the par-71 Innisbrook Resort.

Senior-to-be Hunter Hamrick also posted a top-10 showing with a 3-under-par total of 281. He finished in a tie for eighth place after rounds of 67-71-70-73. Incoming freshman Justin Thomas of Goshen, Kentucky, finished tied for 22nd at 1-over-par 285.

SWIMMING SUCCESS

In Shanghai, China, this summer, former Alabama swimmer Vlad Polyakov, who won NCAA Championships in the 200 breaststroke for the Crimson Tide in 2005 and 2007, showed that he's picked up some sprint prowess over the intervening years, advancing to the semifinals of the 50-meter breaststroke at the 14th FINA World Championships.

Polyakov, who also won the World 200-meter breaststroke title in 2006, finished 16th in the preliminaries of the 50-meter breaststroke, with a time of 28.00. He shaved nearly a tenth of second off his time in the semifinals, finishing 14th overall.

Earlier in the meet, Polyakov and former Tide All-America Hunor Mate, representing Kazakhstan and Austria respectively, finished 38th and 39th respectively in the 100-meter breaststroke after posting times of 1:01.85 and 1:01.88.

Kristel Vourna, a rising sophomore for the Tide, posted a top-25 finish of her own. Representing her native Greece, Vourna finished 22nd in the 100-meter butterfly, touching the wall with a time of 59.27. During her rookie season with the Crimson Tide, Vourna set the school record in the 100 butterfly, earning Freshman All-Southeastern Conference honors.

Former UA distance All-America Mark Randall also posted a top-25 finish at the Oriental Sports Center on Tuesday, taking 20th place in the 800-meter freestyle. The South African native touched the wall with an 8:02.45.

GYMNASTS MAKE MARKS

The 2011 NCAA Champion Alabama gymnastics team posted a 3.71 team grade point average last season, setting a new school record to go with its fifth national team championship.

"As a staff we are extremely proud that in the same year we won the championship 'triple-crown', we also had the highest team GPA and had the most Scholastic All-Americans in program history," Alabama Coach Sarah Patterson said. "It just goes to show that at The University of Alabama, everything is within your grasp."

The Crimson Tide, which won the NCAA, NCAA Regional and Southeastern Conference team titles last season, ranked fourth among all gymnastics programs and was one of just two teams, Utah being the other, that made it to April's NCAA Championships in Cleveland, Ohio, and was ranked among the top-20 academically. Additionally, Alabama was the top-ranked SEC team, followed by Florida, which was 43rd with a 3.27 team GPA.

The Tide also set a new school mark with 14 gymnasts earning Scholastic All-American honors in the same season. To earn the honor, a gymnast must have a 3.5 or better grade point average either for the previous academic year, or for their career. Among this year's 14 honorees, five -- senior Kayla Hoffman, junior Rachel Terry and freshmen Kim Jacob, Lindsey Fowler and Ria Domier -- hold a career GPA of 4.0, while all 17 members of the 2011 squad carry a 3.2 or better cumulative GPA.

"To see the success we enjoyed in the gym this season and combine it with what we accomplished in the classroom, it is truly

amazing," Patterson said. "A large part of our success academically can be attributed to the support system we have for our student-athletes at Alabama, which is second to none. Jon Dever, Fern Hampton and the entire staff at our state-of-the-art academic center, do an outstanding job making sure the ladies have everything they need to be successful."

The Tide's entire senior class, All-America and Honda Award winner Kayla Hoffman along with Megan Mashburn and Alyssa Chapman, earned the award. For Hoffman and Mashburn it was the fourth year in a row to earn the honor while Chapman, Alabama's first fifth-year senior, earned her fifth honor.

Junior NCAA Floor Exercise Champion Geralen Stack-Eaton was joined by All-America classmates Ashley Priess and Rachel Terry on this year's list. It was Terry's third honor and Priess' second. Sophomore Becca Alexin also earned her second honor this season.

Seven freshmen -- All-America Sarah DeMeo, Ria Domier, Lindsey Fowler, All-America Kim Jacob, All-America Diandra Milliner, Jordan Moore and Hannah Toussaint -- also earned the honor.

"We hope to build on this success in the coming years, both athletically and academically," Patterson said.

GRADUATES

When the University of Alabama held its combined spring and summer commencement ceremonies in August, more than 80 Crimson Tide student-athletes were among those receiving degrees.

At least one member of each of Alabama's 21 varsity sports figure among the 87 student-athletes who are eligible to take part in commencement that includes graduates from both the spring semester, which finished in May, and the recently concluded summer semester.

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The spring commencement ceremony was postponed after the April 27 tornado that affected Tuscaloosa, but did not damage campus.

The football team led the way with 20 past and present players earning their degrees, including the Preseason All-Southeastern Conference trio of Josh Chapman, Barrett Jones, and William Vlachos, all of which are returning starters heading into this season. Jones earned first team Academic All-American honors last year as well as a spot on the All-SEC team. In addition to those three, five more football players are set to suit up this season having already earned their undergraduate degrees.

Coach Nick Saban said, "We were happy to have eight players that are currently on our team graduate but still have eligibility left. Several other guys have graduated as well. Graduates include Hardie Buck, Josh Chapman, Phelon Jones, Barrett Jones, Alfred McCullough, Morgan Ogilvie, Chris Underwood, and William Vlachos. We have some guys that have finished their eligibility that also graduated. We continue to be very pleased with the academic success we've been able to have in helping guys develop careers."

Among those graduating were All-America performers Catalin Cosma (swimming and diving), Aaron Fleshner (swimming and diving), Kate Shannon Gray (swimming and diving), Ricki Lebegern (gymnastics), and Kim Laing (women's track and field). Fleshner, Lebegern and Laing also won individual SEC titles during their Tide tenures. Fleshner competed for Team USA at the 2011 FINA World Diving Championships in Shanghai, China in July.

Meghan Austin (women's track and field), Tierney Jenkins (women's basketball), Courtney McLane (women's tennis) and Alyssa Meuth (volleyball), all of whom earned All-SEC honors during their UA careers, were graduated. McLane, a second-team Academic All-American last season, earned her undergraduate degree in three years and will play her final season as a graduate student.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Former University of Alabama women's track and field All-American Kim Laing has been named a conference finalist for the 2011 NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

Laing, a native of St. Catherine's, Jamaica, is one of two nominees from the Southeastern Conference to join 142 other female student-athletes representing multiple sports across Division I, II and III to be chosen by their conference as a nominee. The Woman of the Year award honors female student-athletes who have distinguished themselves throughout their collegiate career in the areas of academic achievement, athletics excellence, community service and leadership.

She recently received her graduate degree in communications studies after completing an athletic career at Alabama that saw her earn All-America honors in the 100-meter hurdles and a pair of SEC Championships in the hurdles.

Off the oval, Laing has been extremely active in both the community and campus. She has assisted with various events in the Athletic Department's Think Pink program to raise cancer awareness and has volunteered with the International Student Organization. She has also devoted more than 90 combined hours to assisting local schools through the C.I.T.Y. Program and serving on campus as an Arts & Sciences Peer Advisor.

She also earned the Arthur Ashe Sports Scholar Award in 2011 and was a finalist for the Paul W. Bryant Student-Athlete Award.

NEW IN SEC

Leslie Claybrook, senior associate athletics director and senior woman administrator at Rice University for the last four years, has been named assistant commissioner in the Southeastern Conference office, SEC Commissioner Mike Slive announced.

A 1994 graduate of The University of Alabama, she was a four-year letterwinner for the Crimson Tide women's basketball squad, earning SEC Academic Honor Roll status three times. Following stints as an assistant coach at Mercer, where she earned her master's degree, and Troy State, Claybrook began her administrative career as a compliance assistant in the SEC office from 1997-99.

"I am excited to get back to the Southeastern Conference, where I was a student-athlete and got my start in athletics administration," said Claybrook. "I look forward to working in the nation's premier conference with the league's coaches, administrators and student-athletes."

Claybrook will handle championship operations and sports administration for women's basketball, soccer and softball.

"We are extremely pleased to have someone of Leslie's experience, knowledge and talents to assist our championship operations," said Slive. "Her extensive background and familiarity with the league, especially in women's basketball, will be a great addition to both our office and our institutions."

At Rice, Claybrook served as sport administrator for women's basketball, men's golf, women's swimming, women's tennis, men's and women's track/cross country and volleyball. Previously, she oversaw all 16 sports with regards to student-athlete services and welfare.

Claybrook is a member of the NCAA Women's Basketball Committee, chair of the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee and previously was Conference USA's representative to the NCAA Legislative Council and Championships and Competition Committee. She has also served as a women's basketball game official in NCAA, WNBA and international competition, including the 2007 Pan American Games.

She moved from the SEC office to Birmingham-Southern College in September 1999. She began as the athletics department compliance officer and was promoted to associate athletics director and senior woman administrator in May 2000, where she stayed until July 2006.

Claybrook moved to Samford University in July 2006 where she served as associate athletics director, directing the Bulldogs' compliance efforts and serving as sport administrator for 11 sports, including women's basketball, soccer and softball. She moved to Rice University the following year.

Claybrook is married to Perry Robinson, a former collegiate and scholastic volleyball coach. The couple has a daughter, Lillian Robinson.

HALL OF FAMER

Alabama's Rodney Brown was inducted into the Alabama Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame recently. Brown, who has been with the Crimson Tide full time since 1999, serves as the director of Rehabilitation Services where he oversees the rehabilitation of all surgical cases involving the student-athletes.

"The highest honor I can think of is to be recognized by your colleagues," Brown said. "This is truly an honor, and it is extremely humbling to have been inducted into the Alabama Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame."

Altogether, Brown has spent 20 years at The Capstone, with the first eight of those on a part-time basis serving as an instructor in Alabama's athletic training education program. During that same time, he also handled the managerial duties for the DCH's Sports Medicine Department. From 1979 to 1987, Brown was a teacher, athletic trainer and coach at Tuscaloosa County High School. He got his start at Boteler Junior High where he was a teacher and a coach from 1978-79.

"Rodney's induction into the Alabama Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame is a well-deserved honor," Alabama Director of Sports Medicine Jeff Allen said. "Rodney is one of the finest athletic trainers I have ever known, and on top of that, he is a great person. His knowledge base and skills related to athletic training and rehabilitation of athletic injuries is incredible. Few people have done more for

athletic training in the state of Alabama than Rodney Brown."

Brown is a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, the National Strength & Conditioning Association, the American College of Sports Medicine, the Southeastern Athletic Trainers' Association and the Alabama Athletic Trainers' Association, where he served as president from 1994-98.

ELI UNTIL 2017

When news broke at Southeastern Conference Media Days that Chris Stewart was replacing former Alabama football star Barry Krauss as color man on Bama football radio broadcasts, the reason for the change was not known. It still isn't.

Crimson Tide Sports Marketing, which has the rights to Alabama radio broadcasts of Bama games and other radio and television presentations, had an announcement, but it didn't concern the matter of Chris Stewart replacing Barry Krauss.

The news was that Eli Gold will continue as play-by-play broadcaster of Alabama football through the 2017 season, Gold having signed a four-year extension of his contract.

Gold is in his third decade as the voice of the Tide, having called the action of every Crimson Tide game since 1989. A nationally known sportscaster, Eli is also the host of "NASCAR Live", a weekly, nationally syndicated radio call-in show. His broadcasting career includes play-by-play for NFL, Arena Football League, and NHL games on radio and television.

CTSM General Manager Jim Carabin also announced the rest of the CTSN crew for the 2011 football season. Providing the color

analysis will be former Crimson Tide Assistant Coach Phil Savage, who's been on the crew since 2008. A Mobile native, Savage has extensive NFL experience, as an assistant coach with the Cleveland Browns (under then-defensive coordinator Nick Saban), Director of Player Personnel for the Baltimore Ravens, and Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Browns.

Savage replaced Gold sidekick and Alabama star Kenny Stabler.

Stewart will patrol the sidelines during the game to keep fans up-to-date and then will head to the locker room for post-game interviews with Saban and Alabama players. A member of the crew since 1999, Stewart is also the play-by-play voice of men's basketball and baseball. Stewart will also host Saban's weekly television show, replacing Birmingham television personality Jim Dunaway.

Tyler Watts and Todd Robbins will start and end the game-day broadcast. Watts starred at quarterback for Alabama from 1999 to 2001 and joined the CTSN team in 2007. He will join Stewart for pay-per-view telecasts. Robbins has produced the pre- and post-game shows for the network since 2005.

The veteran of the CTSN crew is Tom Roberts, who joined the broadcast team in 1979. He hosts the pre-game show, provides scoreboard updates throughout the game and hosts the halftime report.

Since 1984 Tom Stipe has produced the CTSN football broadcasts and he also serves as president of the Southeastern Conference Broadcasters Association. Butch Owens has stood behind Gold every week as the spotter since 1989 and Brian Roberts has been keeping up with all the numbers as the statistician for the broadcast since 1998. ■

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2011 ALABAMA

FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

VOLLEYBALL

DATE	OPP.	TIME*
Aug. 26	Alabama State	Noon
Aug. 26	Austin Peay	7:00
Aug. 27	Texas State	7:00
Aug. 30	@ Samford	6:00

SMU Invitational @ Dallas

Sept. 2	Lamar	4:30
Sept. 3	TCU	10:00
Sept. 3	SMU	7:00

Rocket Classic @ Toledo

Sept. 9	Toledo	6:00
Sept. 10	Ohio State	11:00
Sept. 10	Pennsylvania	4:00

Sept. 16	Arkansas	7:00
Sept. 18	LSU	1:30
Sept. 23	@ Auburn	7:00
Sept. 25	@ Georgia	12:30
Sept. 28	Ole Miss	7:00
Sept. 30	Mississippi State	7:00
Oct. 4	Alabama A&M	7:00
Oct. 7	@ Tennessee	6:00
Oct. 9	@ Kentucky	12:30
Oct. 14	South Carolina	7:00
Oct. 16	Florida	1:30
Oct. 21	@ LSU	7:00
Oct. 23	@ Arkansas	1:30
Oct. 28	Georgia	7:00
Oct. 30	Auburn	1:30
Nov. 4	@ Florida	3:00
Nov. 6	@ South Carolina	12:30
Nov. 11	Kentucky	7:00
Nov. 13	Tennessee	1:30
Nov. 20	@ Mississippi State	1:30
Nov. 25	@ Ole Miss	7:00

SOCCER

DATE	OPP.	TIME*
Aug. 14	Clemson	6:00
Aug. 19	Kennesaw St	7:00
Aug. 21	@ Samford	7:00
Aug. 26	Memphis	7:00
Aug. 28	New Mexico	Noon
Sept. 2	@ San Diego	9:00
Sept. 4	@ San Diego St.	5:00
Sept. 9	UAB	7:00
Sept. 18	Morehead St.	1:00
Sept. 23	Vanderbilt	7:00
Sept. 25	Kentucky	1:00
Sept. 30	@ Mississippi St.	7:00
Oct. 2	@ Ole Miss	1:00
Oct. 7	@ South Carolina	6:00
Oct. 9	@ Florida	11:30
Oct. 14	Arkansas	7:00
Oct. 16	LSU	1:00
Oct. 20	Tennessee	7:00
Oct. 23	@ Georgia	11:00
Oct. 28	Auburn	7:00

CROSS COUNTRY

DATE	EVENT
SEPT. 3	GEORGIA INVITATIONAL
SEPT. 17	COMMODORE CLASSIC
OCT. 1	LOUISVILLE CLASSIC
OCT. 15	CRIMSON CLASSIC
OCT. 31	SEC CHAMPIONSHIPS @ KNOXVILLE
NOV. 12	NCAA SOUTH REGIONAL
NOV. 21	NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS @ TERRE HAUTE, IND.

ROWING

DATE	EVENT
OCT. 8	HEAD OF CHATTANOOGA @ CHATTANOOGA
OCT. 22	HEAD OF CHARLES @ CAMBRIDGE, MASS.
NOV. 5-6	HEAD OF CHATTAHOOCHEE @ CHATTANOOGA

MEN'S TENNIS

Date	Event
Sept. 16-18	Olympia Fields @ Chicago
Sept. 16-18	Duke Fab Four
Oct. 3-5	ITA Qualifying @ Tulsa
Oct. 6-9	ITA Main Draw @ Tulsa
Oct. 23-26	Southern Regional @ Auburn
Oct. 28-30	Crimson Tide Fall Championships
Nov. 3-6	ITA National Indoor @ Flushing, N.Y.
Nov. 11-13	Lakewood Ranch @ Sarasota

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Date	Event
Sept. 16-18	Duke Fab Four
Sept. 23-25	Furman Fall Classic
Oct. 1-9	ITA All-American @ Los Angeles
Oct. 14-16	Roberta Alison Fall Classic
Oct. 21-24	Southern Regional @ Birmingham
Nov. 3-6	ITA National Indoor @ Flushing, N.Y.
Nov. 4-6	Memphis Collegiate

WOMEN'S GOLF

Date	Event
Sept. 11-13	Cougar Classic @ Charleston, S.C.
Sept. 23-25	Fall Preview/Mason Rudolph @ Franklin, Tenn.
Oct. 7-9	Tar Heel Invitational @ Chapel Hill, N.C.
Oct. 21-23	Pac 10-SEC Challenge @ Knoxville, Tenn.

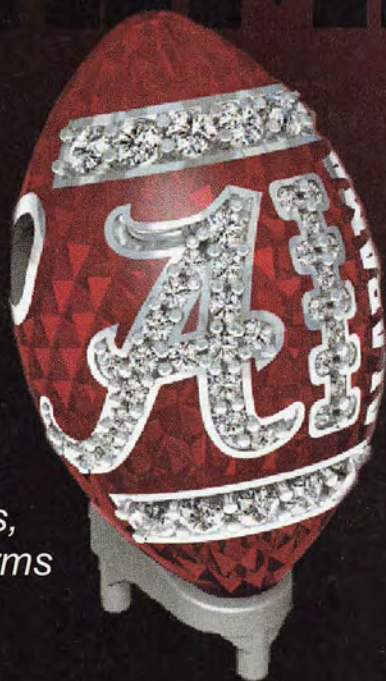
MEN'S GOLF

Date	Event
Sept. 9-11	Carpet Capital Collegiate @ The Farm, Rocky Face, Ga.
Sept. 16-18	Illinois Invitational @ Olympia Fields, Ill.
Oct. 3-4	Jerry Pate National Intercollegiate @ Birmingham Old Overton
Oct. 23-25	Isleworth Collegiate Invitational @ Windermere, Fla.

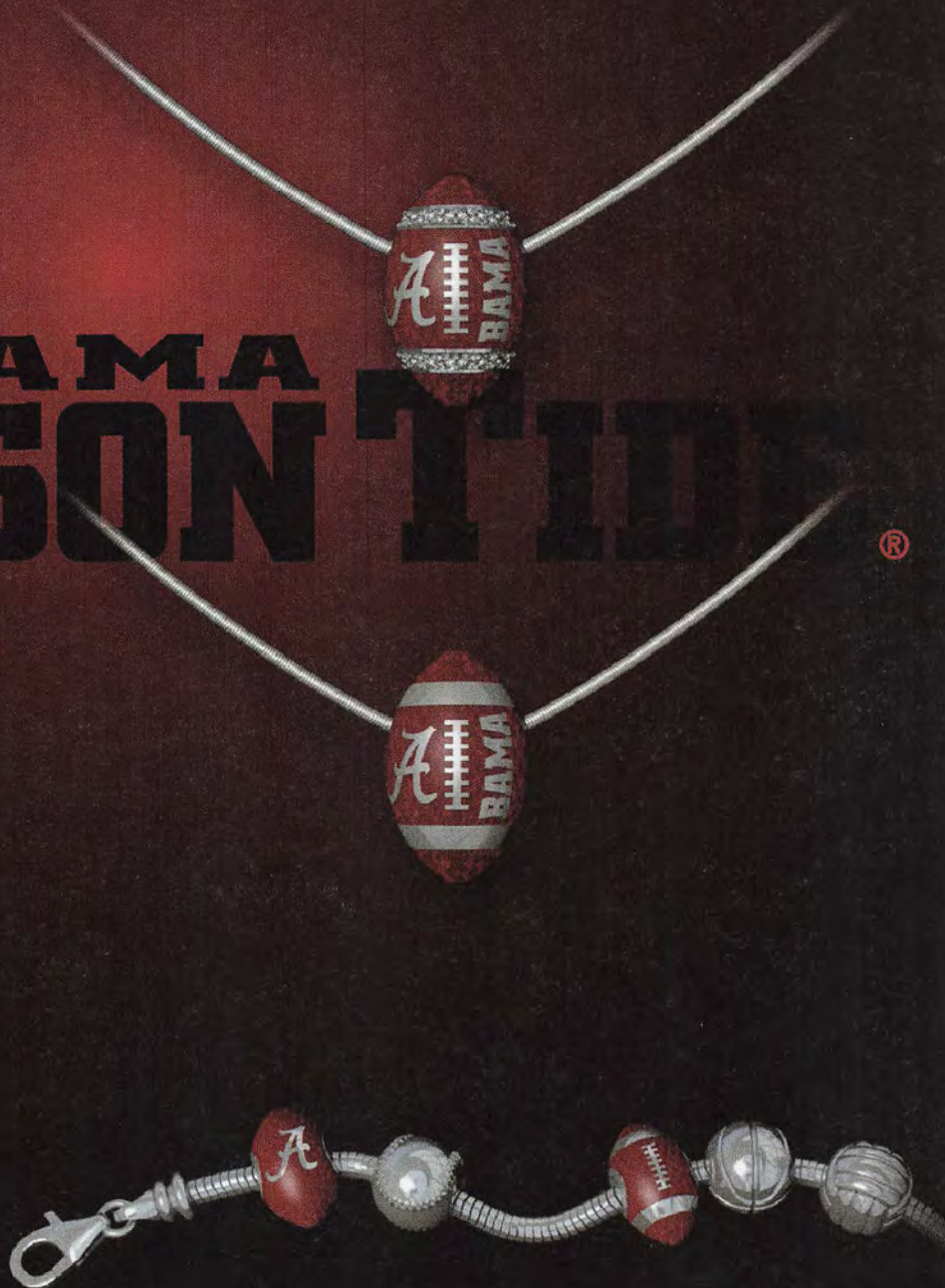
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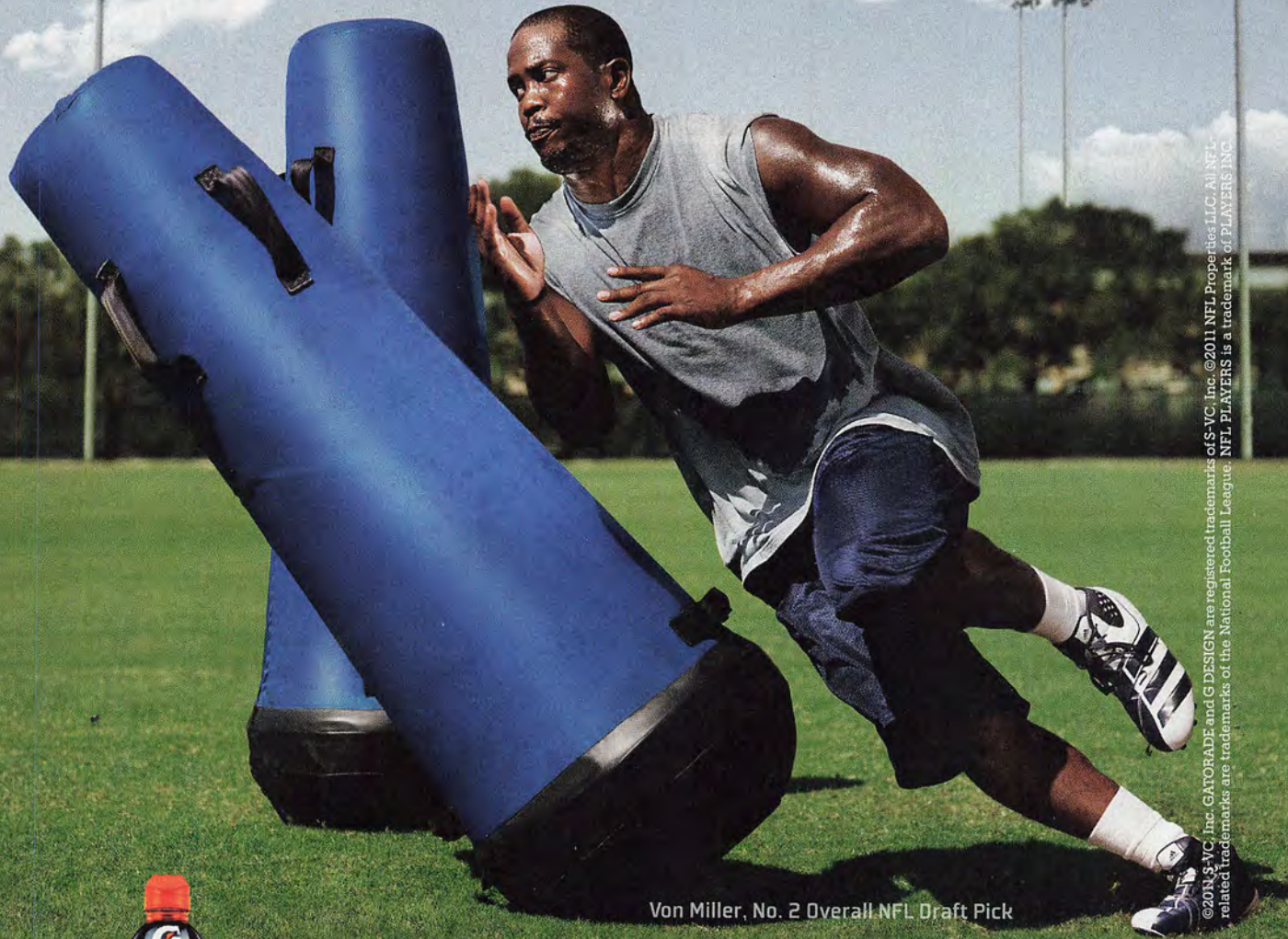
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